



The 2008 Colt Collectors Association Auction Firearm follows a long tradition of exceptional engraving and unique Colt firearms configurations. It is with this rich tradition that we created the 2008 “Texas Cowboy” Colt Buntline Special. This presentation, as always, is complemented with accessories, accoutrement and other special additions that make the “Texas Cowboy” Colt .45 Buntline a special piece of collectible Colt history. The entire work represents the talent of a select group of outstanding American craftsmen, artisans and devoted Colt collectors.

The 2008 Colt Collectors Association Auction Firearm .45 Caliber Colt Buntline Special SAA for this year is engraved as a tribute to “The Texas Cowboy.”

Our host city Houston is the fourth-largest city in the United States and the largest city in Texas. Houston was founded on August 30, 1836 by brothers Augustus Chapman Allen and John Kirby Allen on the banks of Buffalo Bayou. The city was incorporated on June 5, 1837 and named after then-president of the Republic of Texas, former General Sam Houston, who had commanded at the Battle of San Jacinto.

By the end of the Civil War, the classic “Texas Cowboy” had emerged. It all began in Texas with the great cattle drives. The cowboy was a man of few words and his work was often rough. The Texas cowboy was

typically a bachelor who hired on with different outfits from season to season.

The traditional means of transport for the Texas cowboy is horseback. The working ranch horse can perform a wide variety of tasks such as working cattle and instinctively knows how to anticipate and react to them. The American Quarter Horse is the breed that was primarily developed in Texas.

The Texas cowboy tradition arose from a combination of cultural influences in addition to the need for adaptation to the geography and climate of Texas as well as to conduct long cattle drives to get the cattle to market. The working cowboy had very little time for anything other than constant hard work. The cowboys were armed against both predators and the human thieves, and often used guns to run off cattle rustlers. The cowboys were required to routinely patrol the rangeland for damaged fences, evidence of predation, water problems and other issues of concern. The cowboy was able to specialize in tasks solely related to cattle and horses.

By 1890, railroads had expanded to cover most of the nation making long cattle drives from Texas to the railheads in Kansas unnecessary.

Texas cowboys are true American Folk heroes. It has been said that, of all the American heroes, the cowboy is the only one to endure.

- Kathleen J. Hoyt, Colt Historian



The Artisans

Wm. Gamradt - Master Engraver

Bill is a self-taught engraver and western artist. He has an art gallery/engraving studio in downtown Missoula, Montana where he creates and exhibits his original oil paintings, etchings and limited edition prints of landscapes and wildlife. When not engraving firearms and knives in his studio, Bill creates illustrations for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation magazine along with art for convention brochures and merchandise. He has received numerous awards from collecting organizations for his engravings, engraved scenes and inlays. Bill was a natural to engrave "The Texas Cowboy" due to his artistic background in wildlife and the life of the American Cowboy.

Michael W. Dubber - Master Engraver

Mike's background is that of a fine arts educator, jeweler, and Certified Master Engraver. He has been the magazine editor and is a founding member of Firearms Engravers Guild of America and has served as the group's vice president and president. He was on the 2006, 2007 and 2008 CCA Show Gun committee as coordinating historical artist. Mike is no stranger to the Colt Collectors Association, having engraved the CCA 2003 Tampa and the CCA 2006 Louisville Kentucky Auction Firearms. He donated the engraving on the nickel Texas star included with the Ladies' Raffle firearm and the engraving on the stag handled knife included with "The Texas Cowboy." He teaches one-week courses in hand engraving in the USA, Italy and Belgium.

Ron Nott - Engraver

Ron began his engraving career in 1970 and is mostly self taught. His specialty is engraving Colt firearms in American scroll. At the January 2008 FEGA annual exhibition he was honored by the selection of his Colt Single Action Army .45 revolver as the winner of the "Award of Merit."

Ron donated the 1800 antique style lettering engraving on the holster silver buckle and the Argentium silver case description plate for the 2008 CCA Auction Firearm exhibition display case.

Les Yoder - Custom Furniture Maker

The auction package includes a Les Yoder custom-built museum quality glass display case of Texas mesquite, barbed wire etched glass end panels, a carved ivory Texas Longhorn steer on a mahogany panel and two drawers to hold an extra set of stag grips donated by **Raj Singh of Eagle Grips**, a five-piece "ebony" handle 1830 period accessory tool set including two turn screws, one cleaning rod, dust mop and oil bottle and several books. A Les Yoder case has been part of the CCA Show Guns for the last 12 years. The case interior is in burgundy velvet cloth. Les Yoder presentation cases have become an important part of the CCA Auction Firearms and add considerably to the overall presentation. Also included is a Colt "stag handle" knife donated by **Earl L. Whitney** and engraver **Michael W. Dubber**.

Photographs by Paul Goodwin. Article by Earl L. Whitney.





Jose Valencia - Master Wood Carver

Jose Valencia of Valencia Studio in Phoenix, Arizona donated the carved ivory Texas Longhorn steer on the mahogany inlaid back panel of the mesquite display case. Jose specializes in gunstock and grip carvings to create personalized firearms carvings as treasured heirlooms in wood and ivory.

John Bianchi - Leather Craftsman

The Texas Cowboy Colt Buntline leather holster rig is styled after the Mexican loop holsters found in the 1880s in the American West. Made with the finest grade of tanned leather available with a special, pebble grained

liner, the lined belt and holster are finished with a hand rubbed chestnut finish unique to Frontier Gun leather. Ron Nott engraved the sterling buckle in the American engraving pattern.

Handcrafted the old-fashioned way, one-at-a-time by John Bianchi, Frontier Gun leather brings back turn-of-the-century styles and craftsmanship. These collector quality holster outfits represent the best examples of the cowboy-gunfighter culture for collectors, decorators and shooters alike.

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Courtesy photo.



The Legacy Colt: Ladies Gun 2008

The Elizabeth Colt Legacy Foundation is pleased to announce a name change for the serial number of the Ladies Gun in 2008. The serial number is "Legacy2008" rather than "Lady" as in the past. We have another fine Colt Single Action Army revolver to be raffled at the CCA Show in Houston, Texas to benefit the foundation. Last year funds went to the Whittington Adventure Camp, in New Mexico, Ft. Hayes State University Shooting Sports Club, in Kansas and the Pine High School Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC), Florida. We will be announcing future disbursements at the Colt Show in October. Our president, Jan Quick, has a column in this issue that updates the membership about what we are doing to encourage and facilitate our youth in firearms related endeavors. ECLF appreciates your support in our continuing efforts.

Thank you to Lt. Gen. William M. Keys, president and CEO, Colt's Manufacturing Co., LLC, for the donation of this fine Colt Single Action Army revolver. The foundation and the Colt Collectors Association are appreciative of his support.

Thank you also to Joe Canali, Colt Custom Sales, and Kathleen Hoyt, Colt Historian, for your continuing support. Joe and Kathy are also part of the design team that brings this project to completion each year.

As always, we thank Denise Thirion for the superb engraving on the Ladies Gun "Legacy 2008." Denise has been our engraver of choice since we started using the Colt Single Action revolver. She is a highly skilled and desirable engraver. This year's winner will have a fine addition to his/her collection.

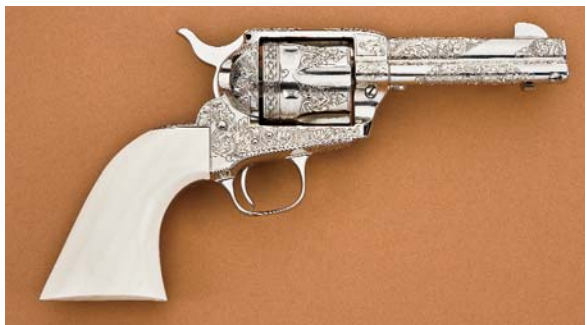
The Colt factory letter is an important part of the process. Thank you, Kathleen Hoyt, Colt Historian and Beverly Haynes, Colt Archivist, for the fine work you do with our letters.

Les Yoder continues to donate deluxe museum style cases for the Ladies Gun and the Show Gun. Les and Earl Whitney design the museum quality cases every year. We appreciate their efforts and thank them both. For the past two years Earl Whitney and Barbara Hinesley have donated items to go with the Ladies Gun. Thank you both so much for this year's donation and for your hard work on the 2008 CCA Houston show. This year's donation is a nickel-plated Texas star that

has been inscribed by Master Engraver Michael W. Dubber. Thank you, Mike, for your generous support.

The Elizabeth Colt Legacy Foundation and the Colt Collectors Association continue to be successful due to the contributions of many of you. You have our grateful appreciation.

- Carol K. Wilkerson



Elizabeth Colt Legacy Foundation and the Colt Collectors Association 2008 Ladies Gun specifications

Colt Single Action Army Revolver
Special Serial Number: Legacy2008
Caliber: .44-40, with an extra .44 Special cylinder
Barrel: 4" with ejector
Finish: Nickel-plated
Stocks: One piece ivory on a birdshead grip frame
Engraved by: Denise Thirion
Display case: Deluxe museum style cherry wood with black velvet interior; 5 sides are glass, hinged top, cradle for the extra cylinder

Backstrap: inscribed Houston TX CCA Show.
Medallion: Nickel-plated Texas star with inscription engraved by Master Engraver Michael W. Dubber that reads:

*THE LEGACY COLT
HOUSTON, TEXAS
S.N. LEGACY2008
Eng'd by Denise Thirion
Colt Mfg. Co. LLC*



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A team effort between John Bianchi and master craftsman Matt Whitaker, shop manager, the donated rig is the perfect complement to the fine Colt Single Action Buntline offered. **Dr. Tom Covault** donated the .45 cal. dummy shells for the holster rig and a leather copy of *Blue Steel and Gun Leather* written and autographed by John Bianchi.

Don Wilkerson - Author and Historian

The XIT Ranch of Texas and the Early Days of the Llano Estacado, by J. Evetts Haley and *The 101 Ranch*, by Ellsworth Collings and Alma M. England, from the personal library collection of Don Wilkerson. Donated by the Wilkerson Family.

Kurt House - Author and Historian

Hand Forged For Texas Cowboys is the most recent book by author Kurt House, avid collector and student of cowboy memorabilia and Texas history. House's latest work is a look at some important cowboy equipment and also at the cowboy, who had little gear that survived. Kurt donated two books: a limited edition autographed copy #67 of 108 bound in Texas Longhorn hide and a second trade version for reading. In his spare time Kurt is on the CCA board and the editor of *The Rampant Colt*. Kurt researched the cattle-brands engraved on the "The Texas Cowboy" Buntline for authenticity and historical background.

Other Artisans

The Texas Cowboy Colt is equipped with African ivory high relief, one-piece grips fitted by **Dan Chesiak** and carved by **K. Dennis Holland**. On the left panel Dennis carved a scene of a Texas cattle drive and on the right side a "remuda" of horses from which the cowboys draw their mounts. Specializing in the accurate re-creation of historical metal finishes on period firearms, **Doug Turnbull Restorations** donated the Carbonia Charcoal Blue finish to the Colt Buntline. **Rodney D. Smith** donated three bronze long horn steer firearm holders.

The 2008 Houston Texas Show gun would not be complete without the photo artistry of **Paul Goodwin**. A wonderful collection of 1891 Texas Ranger cabinet photographs are courtesy **Little John's Auction Service**. A

Texas Longhorn steer hide on loan from **Earl L. Whitney** helped complete the presentation of the 2008 showgun photography. The creative endeavors of Colt collector **Carol Wilkerson** brought together the Texas Cowboy history to create a "One of a Kind" Show Gun photo shoot. Carol was also responsible for the shipment of the showgun between each of the artisans. The showgun committee would also like to extend a special thanks to **Bob James** and **Joe Lozito** for their contribution to the project. This project comes down to all the final magazine prep work and layout presentation by our publisher **K.T. Roes**. We owe her a great deal of gratitude and thanks.

Special Recognition

The production of a CCA Auction Firearm is a major undertaking, an example of the generosity and cooperation of many people. The committee sincerely appreciates the assistance and generous support of Lt. General Wm. M. Keys, USMC (Ret.) President and CEO of Colt Manufacturing Co. LLC; Mike Reissig, Executive Director, Sales and Marketing - Colt Defense/Colt Manufacturing Co. LLC; Joe Canali, Colt Custom Shop Sales; 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 2008 "The Texas Cowboy" Houston, Texas .45 Caliber Colt Buntline Special Single Action Army. The Colt factory also donated a "Colt" branding iron.

Kathleen Hoyt - Colt Firearms Historian

Kathy is a 45-year Colt factory employee, from a long line of Colt family dedication. Together with her grandfather, father and brothers, Kathy has enjoyed over 136 years of service to Colt Firearms. She began her career at Colt in the Product Service Department under Al DeJohn, worked in the Custom Shop and in the Customer Service Department, and with Colt Historian Marty Huber, until his retirement in 1994. She succeeded him and has held that position for the past 20 years. Kathy is known in the Colt firearms collecting fraternity as the lady with the dedication to research the historical information on all Colt firearms.

“The Texas Cowboy” CCA 2008 Houston Show Auction Firearm Specifications

The 2008 Houston CCA auction firearm is a .45 caliber Colt 12-inch Buntline Special Single Action Army.

The Colt Buntline is finished in “Carbonia Charcoal Blue” and is Master “Exhibition” engraved and gold inlaid by Wm. Gamradt.

“The Texas Cowboy” appears in gold raised script on the back strap, a Texas Cowboy on his horse in raised gold is on the recoil shield. In high relief gold, a Bronco Rider is roping a steer on left side of frame. There is a Longhorn steer in high relief gold on frame, a raised gold Bronco Rider on the right side of the frame and a raised gold Cowboy spur on the loading gate.

A raised gold Longhorn steer band is engraved around the back of the cylinder with fancy scrolls and Texas brands. The firearm is decorated with 18 authentic Texas historical brands in raised gold. There are fancy scroll gold lines on the frame and back strap and a Texas raised gold star appears above Serial Number CCA2008 at the traditional frame location.

A cattle drive scene is engraved on the left side of the barrel and a chuck wagon scene is engraved on the right side of the barrel. The front sight and hammer are engraved with gold lines and the firearm has engraved

qualified screws.

The one-piece grips are carved African Ivory in high relief. On the left side is a scene depicting a cattle drive and on the right is a “remuda,” a herd of horses from which cowboys selected their mounts. An extra pair of stag grips is french-fitted in the case drawer.

Museum Grade Mesquite Exhibition Case: with carved ivory Longhorn Steer on mahogany panel and barbed wire etched accents on glass end panels. French fitted in a burgundy cloth drawer are a pair of stag handle grips, accessories, a Colt stag handle knife with master-engraved bolsters and three books. The case is labeled with a master-engraved Argentium Silver nameplate.

Accessories: Five-piece accessory set of two turn screws, cleaning rod, dust mop and oil bottle.

Leather Holster Rig: 1800s-style hand-tooled holster and belt with master-engraved buckle, bullet loops and dummy .45 shells.

Also included are a first edition leather book, *Blue Steel and Gunleather*, written and autographed by John Bianchi and *Hand Forged for Texas Cowboys*, a limited edition book bound with Texas Longhorn hair, written and autographed by Kurt House.

The 2008 Show Gun 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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