



Calling the shots: the Thatcher gun

'Mrs Thatcher's gun' for sale

ONE particular lot in gun auctioneer Holt's next sale, on June 20, is already eliciting much topical interest among collectors. Lot 1600, a 20-bore single-trigger over-and-under sidelock ejector made by Purdey & Sons, is finely engraved with a portrait of Baroness Thatcher, inscribed 'Margaret Thatcher Prime Minister 1990'. It was engraved by Marcus Hunt and completed in 1990 for a keen shot and Thatcherite, whose businesses—a commercial cleaning firm in the City and an importer for Le Chameau footwear—flourished during her tenure as Prime Minister in the 1980s.

'I was abroad when Baroness Thatcher died [on April 8] and the first I knew of it was when five collectors rang me up about the gun,' explains auctioneer Nick Holt. 'The man who had it made was a great fan of hers.' The gun is estimated at £30,000–£50,000, but is likely to fetch far more now (01485 542822; www.holtsauctioneers.com).

