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THE COVER

The matched pair of Scottish flintlock pistols shown on the cover were presented by King George III to Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief of British Forces in North America during much of the Revolutionary War. Made by J. Murdoch, of Doune, about 1785, these cal. .55 smooth-bore pistols are 12½" long and weigh a fraction over 2 lbs. each. Carrying the Gunmakers' Company proof marks, the barrels are lavishly inlaid with gold scrollwork and flowers against a blued ground. A gold enameled portrait of King George III is inset above the breech of both pistols. The stocks are heavily gold plated and engraved with a rampant crowned lion behind the breech. On the underside of the pistols is an uncrowned lion trampling on the arms of France. Oval enameled gold escutcheons of the Order of the Bath and the Order of the Thistle respectively are set on each side of the stocks and the upper side of the butts bears the enameled escutcheon of the Clinton arms. Fitted with their original agate flints, the pistols retain their original silk-lined velvet bags and the contemporary satinwood case. Until acquired by W. Keith Neal in 1960, these pistols were in possession of descendants of Sir Henry. Transparency by Mr. Neal. Linhof 4 x 5 camera with Ektachrome daylight film exposed ¼ second at F/16.

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