



Taxidermist Louis Paul Jonas created this mount of Hasinger's tiger for the Smithsonian.



So terrifying was its appearance that the Smithsonian ordered the taxidermist to close the tiger's mouth.



Today, the tiger is on display in a second story alcove overlooking the museum's mezzanine.



Dave Hasinger's Winchester pre-64 Model 70, chambered in 375 H&H Magnum.

Its great size caused much speculation, but no one dared to dream that it would weigh 857 pounds and measure 11 feet, 1 inch. By comparison, Corbett's famed Bachelor of Powalgarh stretched "10 feet, 7 inches over the curves." The Forestry and Game Commission of India officially certified Hasinger's tiger as the largest on record.

After returning to America, Hasinger contacted the Smithsonian and offered to donate the tiger for permanent display. It was quickly accepted and, in fact, was so highly regarded that legendary taxidermist Louis Paul Jonas came out of retirement to create the mount.

The tiger was originally completed with an open mouth as it sprang toward a frightened chital, but the pose was so terrifying that the Smithsonian directed the mouth to be closed. The Hasinger tiger remains on display at the Smithsonian to this day, although the chital is no longer part of the exhibit.

Sometime later, Hasinger presented his tiger rifle to Dr. Karl Jonas. Both rifles remained in the Jonas family, but are now being offered by Sportsman's Legacy.

The Hasinger rifle is a Winchester pre-64 Model 70 375 H&H Magnum. Made in 1941, it wears a 25-inch barrel and is fitted with a Paul Jaeger detachable side mount and a Lyman aperture sight. Provenance includes a goodly number of newspaper articles, photographs and a certified letter from the Jonas family detailing its history and connection to the Smithsonian tiger. It is available for \$10,000.

The Jonas rifle is also a Winchester pre-64 Model 70. Made in 1957, it's a Super Grade African chambered in 458



The left-hand stock for Dr. Jonas' rifle appears to have been made in the Winchester Custom Shop.

Winchester Magnum. This rifle has what appears to be a left-hand stock made by the Winchester Custom Shop. Sadly, Winchester factory records for most Model 70s were destroyed, so a confirmation of this unique feature is impossible. Provenance includes field photographs of Dr. Jonas with his tiger, although the rifle is not clearly visible. It is available for \$7,500. ■

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

COMPLETE DETAILS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF BOTH RIFLES CAN BE SEEN AT [SPORTSMANSLEGACY.COM](http://SPORTSMANSLEGACY.COM). IN ADDITION, IMPORTANT FIREARMS FROM WRITERS JACK O'CONNOR, COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS, ROY HUNTINGTON, TOM SIATOS AND TODD SMITH ARE ALSO OFFERED.

**NOTE:** THE AUTHOR'S FIRST BOOK, *Born a Hunter*, CAN BE ORDERED ONLINE AT [SPORTINGCLASSICSSTORE.COM](http://SPORTINGCLASSICSSTORE.COM)—CLICK ON "BOOKS." OR, CALL (800) 849-1004.