

Baker Collectors

The Guns of William H. & Dr. Ellis Baker

A.C. McFarland & Frank A. Hollenbeck

Syracuse and Batavia, New York



About

There is no formal Baker Collectors Association. This site was constructed by Dr. Bob Decker as a favor to Baker enthusiasts in 2011 to provide an easily accessible venue in which to find information regarding the various guns produced by William H. Baker and his brother Dr. Ellis Baker. The site was revised in 2021.

Contributions of vintage advertising, images, and catalogs are sought and appreciated and may be emailed to Dr. Drew Hause at drewhausemd@yahoo.com

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is my Baker worth?

The stock answer for all antique guns is whatever somebody will pay on any given day. These are collectors items and price is determined by the demand for the gun.

The range for Bakers can be from the low \$100's for an average condition Batavia Leader to well over \$10,000 for a pristine De Luxe.

The factors which determine value are Model, Condition, Rarity, and Gauge. In general, smaller gauges bring a premium over the more common 12 gauge. The Model is pretty obvious. The relatively plain guns are worth far less than the ornate high grade guns.

Condition is the most controversial of the pricing factors. Collectors by and far prefer guns that have not been "molested" in any way. That is they are entirely original in dimensions, especially of the stock and barrels. Cut barrels markedly reduce the value of a gun. Professional cleaning and touching up a gun may not reduce and may even enhance value. However, amateur cleaning and restoration has led to the ruin of many guns.

The best way to determine the value of your gun is to contact Baker experts. Just click on the contact section of the web site. For accurate information good photos are a necessity.

Where can I get a Baker?

A starting point is to look at the online gun sale sites. Some of the sites are available in the Links section of the web site. Bakers are seen at local and regional gun shows and examples are found in estate auctions. The moderators of the web site may be able to help you out if there is something specific you are after.

Should I alter or restore my Baker?

This is a touchy question as there are those who feel that these antique guns should never be changed. See the above section on value if considering permanently altering a gun. This will inevitably result in a loss in value. However, a gun in such poor condition can be helped with professional restoration. However, this should only be undertaken by those who are not only familiar with gun restoration, but have a knowledge of Baker shotguns.

Can I shoot my Baker?

Quite possibly. However, before use the gun should be evaluated by a double gun specialist, with the interest, expertise, and equipment (bore scope and wall thickness gauge) to properly do so; NOT the guy at the local sporting goods store who knows how to change parts on a Remington 870.

Even if a qualified gunsmith tells you the barrels are without defects and stock wood is free of cracks, we recommend only shooting low pressure (8000 psi or less) and low recoil (light payload at 1200 fps or less) loads. If you don't load your own shells, lower pressure and low recoil loads are available commercially on the internet.

Remember the wood is on average now greater than 100 years old. Firing high pressure and high recoil loads markedly increases your chances of ending up with a gun that will be worth far less than before the trigger was pulled.

Please review

<https://www.shotgunworld.com/threads/is-my-gun-safe-what-load-was-my-gun-designed-to-shoot.366087/>

American Hammerless Grade and Price Comparisons

Sears Catalog “Net Selling Price” for Hammerless Non-Ejector Doubles 1897-1908

.....1897.....1902.....1905.....1908

Smith

No. 00.....25.....25

No. 0.....31.75.....32.90.....32

No. 1.....37.22.....42.....42

No. 2.....42.....54.....56

No. 3.....61.20

Pigeon.....89.75.....84.37

Parker

GH.....51.20.....58.20

DH.....64.25

CH.....96.75

Ithaca

Field.....18

No. 1.....26.....24

No. 2.....37.....37.50

Remington

1894 A grade.....33.....30

1894 B grade.....45

1900 KO.....21.50.....23.50

Baker

Batavia Leader.....24.....22.50

B grade.....31.75.....32.....37.50

A grade.....36.25.....37.50.....45

Model S.....35

Model R.....48.75

Paragon.....57.95.....60

No Baker guns were listed in the **1900** Catalog No. 110

c. 1905 Baker Price List

Baker Gun and Forging Co.
MANUFACTURERS OF THE
**New Baker Hammer and Hammerless
Breach-Loading Shot Guns**

W. T. MYLCRANE, *President*
GEORGE BOWEN, *Vice-President*
E. W. ATWATER, *Secretary*
R. A. MAXWELL, *Treasurer*

BATAVIA, N. Y.

BEST PRICE.

Paragon Grade	-----	\$50.00,
"A"	"-----	31.50,
B.	"-----	26.50,
Barlock Hammer, Damascus barrels	-----	21.00,
" " Twist	"-----	18.00
Batavia Leader	-----	20.00,

With a discount of 5% for cash in ten days from date of invoice, and all goods F. O. B. Batavia.

In order to uphold prices on our make of guns, to those parties who do not sell or print prices at retail below as follows:

"A" Grade	-----	\$37.50,
B.	"-----	32.00,
Barlock Hammer, Damascus barrel,	-----	26.00,
" " Twist	"-----	22.50,
Batavia Leader	-----	25.00,

And who do not job or sell the Leader gun to dealers at a price below \$20.00, with 2% off for cash in ten days from date of invoice. We agree to give a rebate on the Leader at the end of the year of 10%. This rebate applies to the Leader gun only, and would make the Leader net you after the rebate is paid \$17.10.

The above price applies to the Leader gun when ordered in lots of ten or more for delivery at one time.

1908 Price List



BATAVIA, N.Y. U.S.A. Nov. 15, 1907.

Paul G. Klinkenberg,

Kendallville, Ind.

We quote you the following prices on our line of guns for the season of 1908, with the absolute stipulation that the same shall be held strictly confidential and that any violation of such confidence or of the terms or restrictions hereof shall render these quotations subject to withdrawal at our option at any time:--

Grade		Retail List	Grade		Retail List
"De Luxe"	-	\$285.00	Batavia Damascus	-	\$28.00
"L"	-	142.00	Batavia Leader	-	25.00
"P"	-	72.50	Batavia Special	-	21.75
"R"	-	48.75	Batavia Brush	-	24.00
"S"	-	35.50	Batavia Ejector-Damascus	-	37.50
"A"	-	50.00	Batavia Ejector-Steel	-	35.00
"B"	-	41.50	Hammer Gun-Damascus	-	29.50
			Hammer Gun-Twist	-	25.00

Automatic Ejectors \$10.00 extra except Batavia Ejector grades which are fitted with ejectors regularly.

Note:- The manufacture of the "A" and "B" grades is practically discontinued, substituting the "R" and "S" grades.

Don Hardin's Doublegun Comparison Chart

Note the prices are the catalog MSRP and dealer selling prices may be much less

[illegible]

1918 High Grade MSRP Comparisons

Parker A1 Special - \$725
Smith Premier - \$675
Lefever Optimus - \$480
Baker Deluxe AE - \$440
Parker AHE - \$410
Smith Monogram - \$400
Lefever AAE - \$364.50
Ithaca No. 6E - \$310
Lefever AE - \$304.50
Parker BHE - \$300
Lefever BE - \$261.50
Smith Crown E - \$250
Baker Expert E - \$230
Parker CHE - \$220
Ithaca No. 5E - \$210
Lefever CE - \$200.50
Smith Eagle E - \$180
Lefever DE - \$170.50
Parker DHE - \$160
Parker GHE - \$130
Baker Paragon Ejector - \$120
Ithaca 4E - \$110
Smith Specialty E - \$105

\$100 in 1918 = about \$1,350 in 1921

John Houchins' Grade Comparison

L.C. Smith “The Legend Lives”

<u>L.C. Smith</u>	<u>Parker</u>	<u>Lefever</u>	<u>Ithaca</u>	<u>Baker</u>
00/ Field	Trojan	Durston	Field	Batavia Leader
0/ Ideal	VH	H	No. 1	S
1/ Trap	PH	G	No. 1 Dam	B / R
2/ Specialty	GH	F	No. 2	A
3/ Pigeon	DH	D / E	No. 3	Paragon
4/ Eagle	CH	C	No. 4	
5/ Crown	BH	B	No. 5	Expert
Monogram	AH	A	No. 6	De Luxe
A-2	AAH	AA	No. 7	
A-3/ Premier	A1 Special	Optimus	Sousa	
DeLuxe	Invincible	\$1000 Grade		