

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

Educational Resources



Artifact Spotlight: Pair of Colt 1911

Written by TRHFM Staff

The following article has been adapted from the former website of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum.

Pair of 1931 Colt Model 1911A1 Pistols owned by Capt. M. T. Gonzauillas



Pair of Colt Standard 1911A1 Government Model, Commercial Conversion Pistols
Gift of Stan L. White and Sara White Morrison in Memory of Carroll A. Green and Harroll H. (Pet)
Green/ Cat.# 2920.001-.002
Photo courtesy of Robert Langham III

Texas Ranger Captain Manuel T. Gonzauillas enjoyed a long and illustrious career in Texas law enforcement, working in the oilfields and along the Texas-Mexico border. He used this pair of Colt 1911A1 Government Model pistols during his Ranger service. The pistols are factory engraved with gold inlay, gold monogrammed initials on the right, and a longhorn on the left of the ivory grips. Both pistols feature cutaway trigger guards, which is said to have been a signature feature of Gonzauillas' guns, as well as other unique custom details.

Each is inscribed near the trigger with the Spanish motto "No me saques sin razon; no me enbaines sin honor." This was a popular inscription on 17th Century Spanish armor. Translated it means "Do Not Draw Me Without Reason, Do Not Sheath Me Without Honor".

