

## Museum Showcases Oldest Gun Manufacturer

(NAPSA)—An internationally known museum is offering a high-caliber exhibit that celebrates the work of the arms maker known as the “world’s oldest.”

From the turn of the century to the present day, the production facilities of the company, Beretta, have grown. There are more than 1,000 machines and numerically controlled milling machines, some of which are completely automated robotic work stations, used in shaping and finishing firearms.

The Beretta factory in Italy produces approximately 1,500 firearms per day, including numerous configurations of side-by-side, over-and-under and semi-automatic shotguns for hunting and competition, bolt-action carbines, express rifles, premium grades, semiautomatic pistols chambered for calibers from .22 Short to .45 Auto, and military arms.

The exhibit at the National Firearms Museum in Fairfax, Virginia, contains approximately 100 items that offer an example of the company’s history.

Included in the collection are a shotgun owned by Ernest Hemingway, a parchment invoice—dated 1526, which authenticates the 475 years which the company has been in business—for gun barrels and many examples of engraving—some of which took over 300 hours to craft.

Visitors to the exhibit may also purchase copies of a new book by noted firearms historian R.L. Wil-



**Some of the engravings done at the Beretta factory take over 300 hours to craft.**

son, *The World Of Beretta*. A leather-bound, signed edition of the book is available at the exhibit for \$250. A regular edition is also available for \$65.

Both copies of the book and an exhibit catalog are also available at the online store of the NRA Foundation. Proceeds benefit the Beretta Endowment of the National Firearms Museum.

The museum is open daily from 10 am to 4 pm and admission is free. The museum is closed on major holidays.

For more information on the museum and the exhibit, call 703-267-1600 or visit [nrahq.org](http://nrahq.org).