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OCTOBER 2010 AUCTION

Fine instruments & bows

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The Molitor Stradivarius of 1697



Madame Récamier, painted by Jacques-Louis David, 1800

The Molitor first surfaces in Paris around the turn of the 19th Century in the hands of **Madame Juliette Récamier** (1777–1849), a prominent socialite and patroness of the arts in post-revolutionary France. Married at the age of fifteen to a wealthy banker 30 years her senior, Madame Récamier held a fashionable salon that was frequented by leading artists, musicians and the political elite of French Empire society. In addition to *The Molitor*, Madame Récamier owned another Stradivarius from the year 1727. It's not known for certain how Madame Récamier came into possession of these two violins, but Herbert

Goodkind's *Violin Iconography of Antonio Stradivarius* and other references name their first owner as none other than **Napoleon Bonaparte**.

In 1804 Madame Récamier's two violins passed to a young general in Napoleon's army, the **Count Gabriel-Jean-Joseph Molitor** (1770–1849). Count Molitor was evidently a musician of some stature as well as a distinguished soldier under both Napoleon and the Bourbons. After Count Molitor died in 1849 the violins remained in the possession of the Molitor family for nearly 70 years.



Count Gabriel Jean Joseph Molitor

At the height of World War I in 1917 the two violins changed hands and parted company, and *The Molitor* made its way to **Monsieur J Mazeran** through the firm of **Caressa & Français**.

In the summer of 1929 *The Molitor* was acquired by the **Curtis Institute** in Philadelphia from the Parisian dealer **Charles Enel**. At the time, the violin had certificates from Charles Enel and also from Silvestre & Maucotel,

both of which have since been lost. Upon receipt by Curtis, the violin was branded "CURTIS PHILA" to the uncut lower rib and entered Curtis's formidable fleet of loaned instruments. During its time at Curtis *The Molitor* was loaned to several promising students including **Henri Temianka**, **Jascha Brodsky**, **Ethel Stark** and others. In 1936 *The Molitor* was sold to the firm of **W. E. Hill & Sons**.



Elmar Oliveira

In 1937 the Hills sold the violin to a **Mr. R. A. Bower** of Somerset, England and in 1957 **E. R. Voigt** sold the violin to a **Miss Muriel Anderson** of Londonderry in Northern Ireland.

Elmar Oliveira acquired *The Molitor* at **Christie's** in 1989 and concertized and recorded with it until he acquired the c. 1729 *Stretton del Gesu* around the time of the Guarneri exhibit in 1994. Mr. Oliveira, the first American violinist to win the gold medal at the Tchaikovsky Competition, has enjoyed a distinguished career as a soloist and a champion of new music.

Provenance

Current owner (1994–present)
Elmar Oliveira (1989–1994)
Christie's (1989)
Miss Muriel Anderson,
Londonderry (1957–1989)
E. R. Voigt (1957)
Mr. R. A. Bower, Somerset
(1937–1957)
W.E. Hill & Sons (1936)

The Curtis Institute,
Philadelphia (1929–1936)
Charles Enel through
Louis Bailly (1929)
Maucotel & Deschamps (1923)
J. Mazeran, Paris (1917–1923)
Caressa & Français (1917)
Molitor family (1849–1917)
Count Gabriel-Jean-Joseph Molitor,
Paris (1804–1849)
Madame Juliette Récamier,
Paris (? – 1804)



A FINE ITALIAN VIOLIN BY ANTONIO STRADIVARIUS, CREMONA, 1697, THE 'MOLITOR'

Labeled, "Antonio Stradivarius, Cremona, 1697..."
LOB 35.5 cm

Estimates available upon request

Certificates:

Certificate from W. E. Hill & Sons, London (March 23, 1937)
Letter from Alfred Hill, London (March 23, 1937)
Certificate from E. R. Voigt, London (February 7, 1957)
Certificate from Emil Herrmann, New York (photocopy only)

Please visit our blog for a condition report and more information:

www.tarisio.com/Molitor



**A FINE ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY NICOLO AMATI, CREMONA, 1655**

Labeled, "Nicolaus Amatus Cremonen,
Hieronymi Fil. ac Antoni Nepos Fecit 1655."
Bearing the Wurlitzer inventory number "M-
467" to the inside back. LOB 35.5 cm

** Sold with certificates from Rembert Wurlitzer Inc., New York
(December 8, 1955), Harry A Duffy Violins Inc., Dumont, (December 15,
1978), and Emil Hermann, Easton (January 15, 1955).*

Estimate: **\$300,000–500,000**



**A FINE ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY FRANCESCO RUGGERI, CREMONA, c. 1670**

Labeled, "Francesco Ruggeri detto il
per Cremona 1673." LOB 35.7 cm

** Sold with certificates from the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company,
New York (November 30, 1926) and Reuning & Son Violins,
Boston (October 26, 2004).*

Estimate: **\$180,000–250,000**



**A FINE FRENCH VIOLIN
BY JEAN BAPTISTE VUILLAUME, PARIS, c. 1865**

Labeled, "Jean Baptiste Vuillaume, à Paris, 3 rue Demours-Ternes." Bearing the number "2596" to the inside back. "Alard" model. LOB 35.6 cm

* Sold with a certificate from Hama & Co. signed by Fridolin Hama, Stuttgart (June 9, 1951) and a certificate from Jacques Français, New York (December 16, 1958).

Estimate: **\$100,000–150,000**



**A GOOD ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY TOMASO EBERLE, NAPLES, 1776**

Labeled, "Tomaso Eberle Fecit Nap. 1776." LOB 35.4 cm

* Sold with a certificate from the 1937 Cremona exhibit, a letter from Tullo Bellomi (July 9, 1937) and a certificate from the Commissione Technica of the 1937 exhibit.

Estimate: **\$50,000–80,000**



**A GOOD ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY TOMASO CARCASSI, FLORENCE, c. 1770**

Labeled, "Tommaso Carcassi, Firenze, 17..". Bearing an original inset insignia to the center back. LOB 35.1 cm

Estimate: **\$50,000–80,000**



**A GOOD ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY ANNIBALE FAGNOLA, TURIN, 1930**

Labeled, "Hannibal Fagnola fecit Taurini anno Domini 1930" and "Joseph Rocca."

Signed to the upper rib. Branded internally and to the pegbox floor, "GR." LOB 35.5 cm

Estimate: **\$40,000–60,000**





**A A GOOD AND RARE ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY GAETANO CHIOCCHI, PADUA,
MID 19th CENTURY**

Labeled, "Laurentius Storioni, fecit
Cremonae 1774." LOB 35.5 cm

** Sold with a certificate from Dmitry Gindin, London.*

Estimate: **\$50,000–80,000**

**B GOOD ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY ANTONIO MARIANI, PESARO,
MID 17th CENTURY**

The head probably later. LOB 35.2

** Sold with a certificate from Dmitry Gindin, London.*

Estimate: **\$60,000–90,000**

**C A GOOD ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY VINCENZO POSTIGLIONE, NAPLES, 1892**

Labeled, "Vincentius Postiglione
me fecit ad imitationem Stradivari,
Neapoli 1892." LOB 35.9 cm

** Sold with a certificate from Rembert Wurlitzer, New York
(November 28, 1962).*

Estimate: **\$35,000–55,000**

**D A GOOD ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY RICCARDO ANTONIAZZI, MILAN, 1910**

Labeled, "Antoniazzi Riccardo di
Cremona, figlio di Gaetano fece in
Milano l'anno 1910." LOB 35.3 cm

Estimate: **\$35,000–50,000**

**E GOOD ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY GIOVANNI BAPTISTA GABRIELLI,
FLORENCE, c. 1760**

Labeled, "Joannes Baptista Gabrielli,
Florence." LOB 35.2 cm

** Pictured in Meister Italienischer Geigenbaukunst by
Walter Hamma.*

Estimate: **\$30,000–50,000**

**F A GOOD COMPOSITE VIOLIN,
THE TOP BY GIOVANNI BAPTISTA
GUADAGNINI, PARMA, c. 1760**

Labeled, "Joannes Baptista Guadagnini,
Centinus fecit Mediolani 170..." LOB 35.6 cm

Estimate: **\$30,000–50,000**

**G A GOOD ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY VINCENZO SANNINO, NAPLES, 1924**

Labeled, "Vincenzo Sannino, fecit in
Napoli anno 1924." LOB 35.5 cm

Estimate: **\$30,000–50,000**

**H A GOOD ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY GIORGIO GATTI, TURIN, 1928**

Labeled, "Giorgio Gatti, fece in Torino
l'anno 1928, Via Bardassano, 8." Branded
to the inside back. LOB 35.2 cm

Estimate: **\$20,000–30,000**

**I AN ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY ENRICO POLITI, ROME, 1928**

Bearing a signed label, "Enrico Politi,
Roma, anno 1928." LOB 35.7 cm

Estimate: **\$18,000–25,000**

**J AN ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY GIOVANNI BATTISTA MORASSI,
CREMONA, 1966**

Labeled, "Morassi Giobatta fece anno
1966 no. 252." LOB 35.6 cm

Estimate: **\$15,000–22,000**

**K AN ENGLISH VIOLIN
BY W.E. HILL & SONS, LONDON, 1903**

Labeled, "W.E. Hill & Sons, Makers, 140 New Bond
Street, London, 1903, No. 42." LOB 35.5 cm

** Sold with a certificate by Dario D'Attili, Dumont,
ascribing the violin to Giuseppe Fiorini (April 13, 1982).*

Estimate: **\$8,000–12,000**

**L A GOOD ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY ORESTE CANDI, GENOA, c. 1900**

Branded to the inside back, "Candi
Oreste." LOB 35.5 cm

** Sold with certificates from Kenneth Warren & Son,
Chicago (April 7, 2004), and Dario D'Attili,
Winter Garden (May 5, 1996).*

Estimate: **\$6,000–9,000**



**A FINE AND RARE ITALIAN CELLO
BY GIOVANNI BATTISTA GENOVA,
TURIN, LATE 18th CENTURY**

Unlabeled. LOB 73.6 cm

** Sold with certificates from W.E. Hill & Sons, London (May 17, 1912)
and Reuning & Son Violins, Boston (July 23, 2010).*

Estimate: **\$200,000–300,000**



**A FINE ITALIAN VIOLA
BY GIOVANNI GRANCINO, MILAN, c. 1670**

Labeled, "Giovanni Grancino in Contrada Larga di
Milan, al Segno della Corona, 1670..." LOB 39.8 cm

** Sold with a certificate from William Moennig & Son,
Philadelphia (October 14, 1987).*

Estimate: **\$150,000–220,000**



**A GOOD ITALIAN CELLO
BY LORENZO VENTAPANE,
NAPLES, EARLY 19th CENTURY**

Labeled, "Lorenzo Ventapane, 1824." LOB 73.4 cm

Estimate: **\$80,000–120,000**



**A GOOD ITALIAN VIOLA
BY STEFANO SCARAMPELLA, MANTUA, 1909**

Labeled, "Stefano Scarampella di Brescia, fece
in Mantova anno 1909." LOB 39.9 cm

Estimate: **\$50,000–80,000**



**A GOOD AMERICAN VIOLA
BY CARL BECKER & SON,
CHICAGO, 1961**

Labeled, "Carl Becker & Son, Associated
with William Lewis & Son, No. 692
Chicago 1961." LOB 42.0 cm

Estimate: **\$20,000–30,000**



**AN INTERESTING COMPOSITE VIOLA,
THE BACK ATTRIBUTED TO ANDREA
AMATI, CREMONA, LATE 16th CENTURY**

Labeled, "Antonius e Hieronimus F. Amati,
Cremonem Andrea Fil F 1593." The
dimensions of the back substantially
altered. The top and scroll later. LOB 38.7 cm

Estimate: **\$18,000–25,000**



**A GOOD ITALIAN VIOLA
BY CELESTINO FAROTTO, MILAN, 1968**

Labeled, "Cav. Uff. Celeste
Farotto..." LOB 42.0 cm

Estimate: **\$10,000–15,000**



**A GOOD FRANCO-ITALIAN VIOLA
BY ANTOINE CHEVIER, TURIN, 1831**

Labeled, "Antoine Chevier fece
in Torino 1831." LOB 39.5 cm

Estimate: **\$8,000–12,000**



A FINE ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY CARLO GIUSEPPE TESTORE, MILAN, c. 1700

Labeled, "Carlo Giuseppe Testore in Contrada Larga di Milano Segna Dell' Aquila 1700." LOB 35.5 cm

* Sold with certificates from J & A Beare Ltd., London and from Bein & Fushi Inc., Chicago.

Estimate: **£100,000–150,000**



A FINE ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY ANDREA GUARNERI, CREMONA, c. 1680

Labeled, "Andreas Guarnerius Cremonae fabricato Sanctae Terefae." Dimensions altered. LOB 35.1 cm

* Sold with a certificate from W.E. Hill & Sons, London (August 31, 1971).

Estimate: **£70,000–100,000**



A GOOD ITALIAN VIOLIN
BY MARENGO ROMANO RINALDI, TURIN, 1900

Labeled, "Marengo Romano Rinaldi di Alba, fece in Torino anno 1900." Signed to the label, "Restaurato Sa Gallinotti Pietro in Solero 1926." The bridge stamped, "P. Gallinotti." LOB 35.5 cm

* Sold with a certificate from Bein & Fushi, Inc, Chicago (August 5, 2000).

Estimate: **£15,000–22,000**



A FINE ITALIAN VIOLA
BY TOMASO EBERLE, NAPLES, c. 1760

Labeled, "Ferdinandus Gagliano Filius Nicolai fecit Neap. 17.. ." LOB 37.4 cm

* Sold with a certificate from the 1937 Cremona exhibit, a letter from Tullo Bellomi (July 9, 1937), and a certificate from Commissione Technica.

Estimate: **£45,000–60,000**



October 2010

New York & London Sales

New York

Sale closes October 13 & 14

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New York Viewing

(New York sale)

Tarisio
244–250 W. 54th St., 11th Floor,
New York, NY 10019

Appointments available
Monday–Friday, September 7–October 12

Cremona Viewing

(Highlights from New York and London sales)

Mondomusica at CremonaFiere
Cremona, Italy

Convention Hours, October 1–3

London Viewing

(London sale and highlights from New York)

The Westbury
2nd Floor Gallery
Bond Street
Mayfair, London W1S 2YF

12pm–7pm October 4
10am–5pm October 5

Boston Viewing

(New York sale)

Park Plaza Hotel
50 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02115

12pm–7pm October 9
10am–3pm October 10



*An English Violin Bow by James
Tubbs made for W.E. Hill & Sons
London sale*

For more information please call
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