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The Violin

1. [cover title] Violin book. David K. Oyster. [Philadelphia?: ca. 1870?]. Oblong 8vo. Pp. 19–66, 71–80, 67–70; 15–56; 19–64.

\$47.50

☞ David K. Oyster has had bound for himself a collection of marches and dances, set for the violin, culled from different sources, with his own gilt-stamped title label pasted to the front cover.

☞ Contemporary half black sheep, abraded and chipped, with front joint open and front cover partially detached. Tattering to endpapers. Music with light soiling and foxing. Some pencilling on music, and pencilled ownership inscription on p. 19. (7419)

Exceptional Musical Provenance

2. **Hamma, Fridolin.** Meisterwerke italienischer Geigenbau-Kunst Ihre Beschreibg und bisher erzielte Preise. Stuttgart: Hamma & Co., [ca. 1933]. 4to (29.5 cm, 11.6"). [2], xiii, [3], 345, [5] pp.; 9 double plts., plts., illus.

\$1000.00

☞ First edition of this important treatise on Italian violins and their makers. The author (1881–1969) was himself an accomplished luthier, and the son of the founder of the famed instrument-making firm Hamma & Co. His scholarship is here illustrated with numerous photographic reproductions of violins, representing the masterworks of many eminent Italian artists; a few of these violin images are printed in color, and at the back of the volume are ☛ **nine double-spread plates** providing life-sized diagrams with measurements of instrument exemplars. This is ☛ **hand-numbered copy 518 of 1200 printed, this particular copy having outstanding provenance** (see below). The publisher's prospectus — with sample illustrations — is also laid in.

Provenance: From the library of the great violinist and conductor Adolf Busch — owner of a Stradivarius violin made in 1716 — and by bequest to his daughter Irene Serkin and son-in-law, musician Rudolph Serkin. Half-title with author's signed presentation inscription to Fritz Baumgartner, who was, alongside Hamma, a co-founder of EILA, the International Association of Violin and Bow Makers (and who also owned a Stradivarius); half-title with another inked inscription signed by Busch recording gift of this volume "von Frau Baumgartner" in 1937, and with inked ownership inscription of Irene Serkin-Busch. Laid-in three-page manuscript letter dated 1937, addressed "Sehr verehrter Herr Professor" and signed by Frau Baumgartner. Herr Baumgartner and Busch had a noteworthy (so to speak) connection; the latter commissioned both a custom viola and a copy of a Stradivarius violin from the former.

☞ Publisher's quarter (wide) vellum and brown sueded cloth, front cover with gilt-stamped coat of arms, spine with gilt-stamped leather title-label; covers slightly bowed, suede rubbed down to cloth along edges and in small spots on sides, vellum showing minor soiling. Pages faintly age-toned. Inscriptions as above; small piece of paper with inked annotations re. two Guadagnini instruments, laid in at the Joannes Baptista Guadagnini page. ☛ **A useful and authoritative work in and of itself, with remarkable connections to three different prominent musical families.** (39715)

Written & Owned by Violinists

3) **Hill, William Henry; Arthur F. Hill; Alfred Ebsworth Hill.** Antonio Stradivari his life and work (1644–1737). London: William E. Hill & Sons, 1902. Large 4to (30.1 cm, 11.875"). xvi, 303, [1] pp.; 30 plts.; illus.

\$750.00

© First edition of the preeminent work on *the* preeminent name in violins. The Hill family was itself known for fine violin making (the W.E. Hill & Sons firm continues to be active today), making the three music-playing, instrument-restoring brothers who produced this text abundantly qualified to discuss not just the technical and historical but also the aesthetic qualities of Stradivari's work — and they do so here at length, with scholarly precision. The volume opens with an introductory note by Lady Huggins, and is • **illustrated with 30 plates** (many images of instruments printed in color) plus a genealogical tree, an illuminated title-page in red and black with the Stradivari device in red and gilt, and a number of in-text images.

Provenance: From the library (*sans indicia*) of the great violinist and conductor Adolf Busch — himself the owner of a Stradivarius instrument, a violin made in 1716 and now played by David Garrett — and by bequest to his daughter Irene Serkin and son-in-law Rudolph Serkin.

© Publisher's (wide) quarter green calf and green cloth-covered sides, outer leather edges with blind roll, front cover with Stradivarius coat of arms stamped in gilt and red, spine with gilt-stamped publication information; spine and back joint sunned, corners and joints lightly rubbed. Top edges gilt, other edges untrimmed. Last two leaves of index starting to separate. • **A nice copy of this critically important work of music history, with outstanding provenance.** (39702)

Master Violin Makers (Both Subjects & Authors) — Equally Masterful Binders Extraordinary Provenance

4) **Hill, William Henry; Arthur F. Hill; Alfred Ebsworth Hill.** The violin-makers of the Guarneri family (1626–1762): Their life and work. London: William E. Hill & Sons, 1931. 4to (29.9 cm, 11.75"). xxxvii, [3], 181, [5] pp.; 58 plts., 2 fold. maps, illus.

\$3250.00

© The first edition in its deluxe format, in an eye-catching Riviere binding: a carefully detailed, extensively illustrated examination of the careers and productions of all five of the master instrument-makers of the Guarneri family. The text is enhanced by • **58 full-page depictions of known examples of Guarneri work**, often in multiple views, with many color-printed and the rest in crisply impressed photogravure, along with two oversized, folding maps and numerous in-text illustrations. And it bears a touching dedication to the memory of William Hill (1857–1929), noting that this history "embodies the knowledge and considered views of three brothers who lived and worked in a life-long intimacy." The Hill family was itself known for fine violin-making and expert instrument repair work, and the W.E. Hill & Sons firm continues to be active today. • **This is hand-numbered copy 137 of only 200 produced in this special limited format**, there having been apparently fewer than 700 copies produced for subscribers overall.

Binding: Signed brown morocco, covers framed and panelled in gilt double fillets with gilt corner fleurons and floral decorations enclosed by strapwork, front cover with central gilt-stamped Guarneri coat of arms, spine with gilt-ruled raised bands, gilt-stamped title and author, and gilt-stamped decorations in compartments. Turn-ins with one wide gilt roll and one narrow, joined by gilt double fillets. Page edges untrimmed. Binding dated 1931 (at spine foot) and gilt-stamped by Riviere & Son on lower front turn-in.

Provenance: From the library (*sans indicia*) of the great violinist Adolf Busch and by bequest to his daughter Irene Serkin and son-in-law Rudolph Serkin.

© Binding as above; back cover with one scuff, front cover with small unobtrusive area of darkening towards upper outer corner. Offsetting to edges of free endpapers from turn-ins. Pages and plates clean and fresh. • **A striking, elegant volume, of surpassing interest for music historians and aficionados.** (39690)

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