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ENCHÈRES

*A guitar by Guillaume
Louis MARTIN?*

—
June 27th, 2020 - 14h

An intriguing instrument

At the next sale of wind and plucked string instruments, an anonymous romantic guitar will be presented under No. 140. This instrument is intriguing: a fine Parisian crafted, a 6-string simple assembly, slightly accentuated curves ... Many details that led Bruno Marlat to carry out his investigation. To find out more about this «anonymous beauty», here is the result of his inquiries published in the Guitare Classique magazine # 71, with their kind permission.

To follow the sale and perhaps play the auction game, go to www.interencheres.com/03001.

The entire Vichy Enchères team is mobilized! We are available to answer your requests by email at vente@vichy-encheres.com.



The clues

«No signature on this instrument, but characteristic details of the fine nineteenth-century Parisian craftsmanship, clues that allow us to make the hypothesis of an author.

This fine guitar is not signed by its author. However, it presents, for an advised eye, several elements which make it possible to propose a name. To locate it in time, we can first observe that it is mounted with 6 simple strings, but that the curves of the sound box are still slightly accentuated, which evokes a work carried out in the first quarter of the nineteenth century.»

Parisian style

«As for the place, the decorative mother-of-pearl patterns that line the table and the rose suggest French work. The alternating ebony and ivory purflings that circle the ribs and frame the heel as well as the design of the «mustache» bridge are quite representative of the Parisian style. If we now examine the assemblies of the different parts of the guitar and in particular the one of the neck and the sound box, the choice is even more limited. In Paris, in the 1820s, few luthiers were able to produce such an instrument if it was not Pons or two of his pupils: Lacote and Martin. However, if Pons and Lacote work in their own workshop and can therefore write their business address on a label, this is not the case for Martin, which seems to confirm our hypothesis.»



The singular childhood of Guillaume Louis Martin

«Guillaume Louis Martin belongs, through his mother, to a Parisian family which has had luthiers since the eighteenth century. Born in 1787, he had a singular childhood. He spent his early years in the United States, where his father decided to settle. But he died prematurely and his mother returned to France with him and his little sister. No doubt she was looking for support from her family. In 1796, Guillaume Louis therefore found the rue Montmartre and his luthier's uncles. Thus surrounded, the young man will, quite naturally, choose lutherie making for profession. Once trained, he worked with his uncle Jean Charles Lejeune, from whom he then took over the workshop, 10 Cour du Commerce St André. He worked there until his death in 1854.»

More details



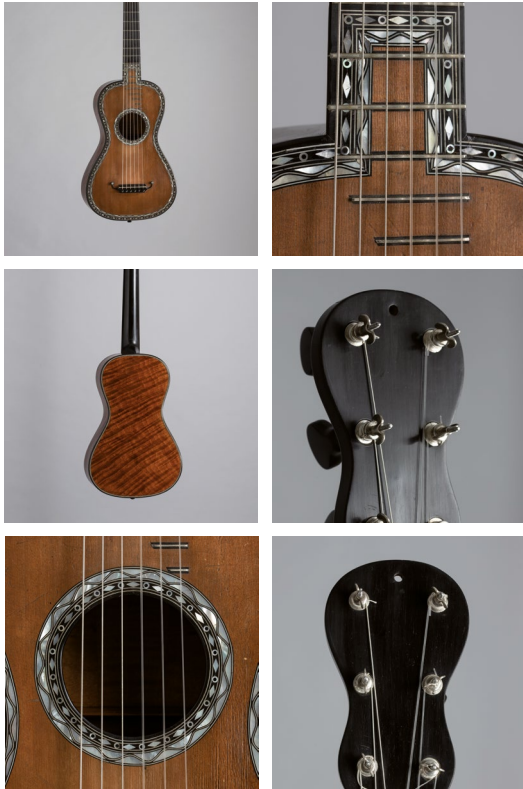
«Eight-shaped, the head is plated with ebony. She wears friction dowels that facilitate tuning. This system is here in silver, the shade harmonizes with the decorative elements of the instrument.»



«We find around the rose, mirrored, the same frieze as on the edge of the table. The abundance of the decoration as much as the care taken in its execution are remarkable.»



«The ribs in wavy maple are surrounded by alternate ivory and ebony purflings. A very elaborate and complex frieze, composed of geometric mother-of-pearl patterns wrapped in ivory and ebony purflings, borders the table up to the part that covers the bottom of the neck.»



Description of the sales catalog

140

Fine romantic guitar, Paris made around 1830

Attributed by Bruno Marlat to Guillaume Louis MARTIN, in his article published in the Guitare Classique magazine #71. Back and ribs plated in very beautiful mahogany from Cuba, fine mother-of-pearl decoration on the table and the rose window. Equipped with pretty silver butterfly dowels.

Fine state of restoration. Ready to play. In modern case.

Scale 630mm. Head nut spacing 44mm.

Estimate: €6,500

Useful informations

Sale

Saturday June 27th, 2020 at 2 p.m.

Exhibitions

Friday, June 26th, 2020 (2 p.m./6 p.m.)
and Saturday, June 27th, 2020 (10a.m./12 p.m.)

Experts

Jérôme CASANOVA, Bruno KAMPMANN
and Philippe KRÜMM

Contact

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Location

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