



ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS OF THE MUSÉE DE LA MUSIQUE

*Studying Instrument Making
through Online Archives*



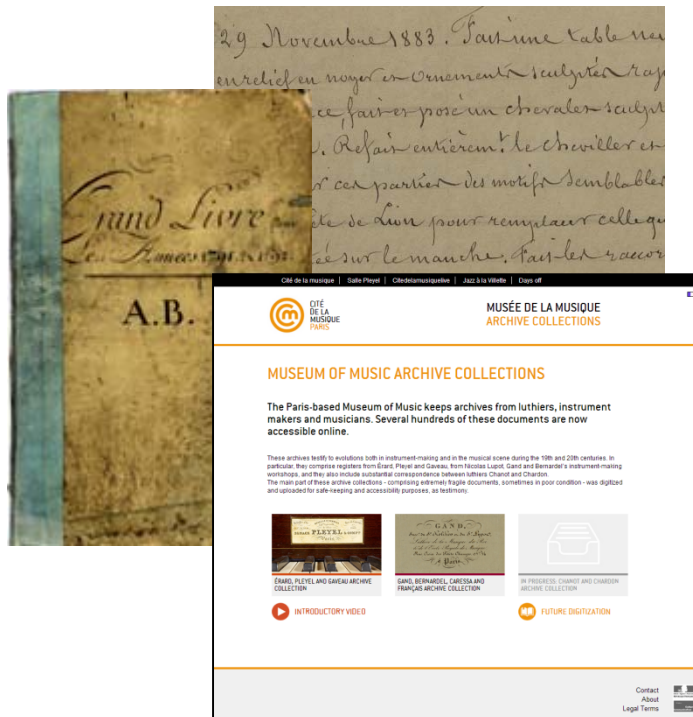
Opening conference
27 February 2014

Cécile Cecconi, librarian
(Médiathèque)

Christine Laloue, curator
(Musée de la musique)

Cité de la musique - Paris

OVERVIEW OF THE MUSÉE DE LA MUSIQUE ARCHIVES



THE ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS

Thousands of documents written by luthiers and instrument makers :

- Workshop and accounts registers from various instrument makers
- Musical teaching methods (manuscripts and old editions)
- Original technical drawings
- And a lot more....

An wealth of information on :

- Manufacturing processes
- Networks
- Instruments

THE DIGITIZATION PROJECT

2011 - Beginning of the project

- The Musée de la musique's Museum and Multimedia Library have begun processing and digitizing the main archives collections

2013 - A bilingual website gives access to :

- 2 archive collections (Érard, Pleyel & Gaveau and Gand, Bernardel, Caressa and Français)
- 220 registers
- 55.000 images

2014 – Work in progress....

- Soon, a third collection will be available : the archives of the luthiers Chantot & Chardon

ÉRARD, PLEYEL & GAVEAU ARCHIVES

189 REGISTERS OF THREE
EMBLEMATIC FRENCH MUSICAL
INSTRUMENT MAKING
INSTITUTIONS,
ABOUT PIANOS BUT ALSO
HARPSICHORDS, HARPS...

EXAMPLE

Nombres	Désignation	Date de l'entrée	Date de la vente	Acquéreurs	Professeurs
126943	Clavier droit 180 cm en acajou	17 Février 1946	17 Mars 1946	Mme Cros	
126944	Clavier droit 180 cm en acajou	17 Février 1946	17 Mars 1946	Mme Cros	
126945	Clavier droit 180 cm en acajou	17 Mars 1946	17 Mars 1946	Mme Cros	

Érard Manufacturing Register, 1907 - 1932

126944

Serial Number : " 126944"

acajou

Material : " Mahogany"

Février 1946

Construction Date : " February 1946"

Mars 1946

Sale Date : " March 1946"

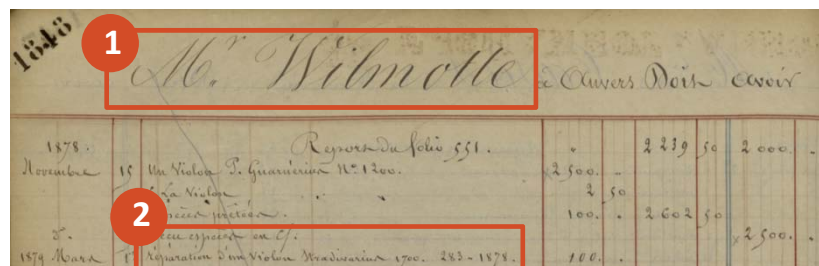
Madame Cros

Client Name :
" Mrs Cros"

GAND, BERNARDEL, CARESSA & FRANÇAIS ARCHIVES

THE DAILY LIFE OF GREAT
FRENCH STRINGED-
INSTRUMENT MAKERS FROM
1816 TO 1944 NARRATED IN 50
DOCUMENTS

EXAMPLE 1



1846

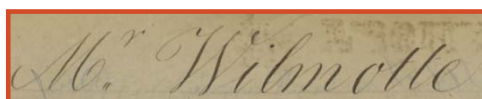
1

M^r Wilmotte à Couvres Doit avoir

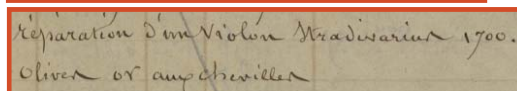
1878.	Reparat. du Violon 551.	2 219 50	2 000.
Novembre 15	M ^r Violon J. Guarnerius N ^o 1200.	2 500.	
	Violon	2 50	
	Reparat. Violon	100.	2 602 50
1879 Mars	Reparat. Violon Stradivarius 1700. 283-1879.	100.	2 500.

2

General Ledger, 1875 - 1884

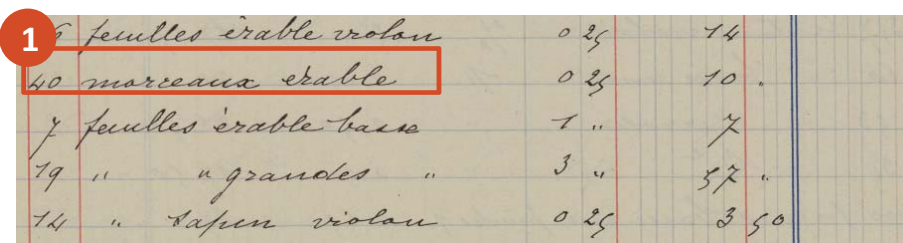


Client: "Mr Wilmotte"



Detail of transactions : "1st March, 1879: repair of a Stradivarius violin 1700. Gold adornments added to tuning pegs"

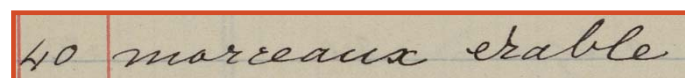
EXAMPLE 2



1

6	feuilles érable violon	0 25	14
40	morceaux érable	0 25	10
7	feuilles érable basse	1 "	7
19	" grandes "	3 "	57
14	" sapin violon	0 25	3 50

Cash-Book: Purchases, 1908-1920



Workshop Supplies: "40 pieces of maple wood"

QUESTIONS ? SEE YOU ON THE POSTER SESSION!

THE ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS OF THE MUSÉE DE LA MUSIQUE

The Paris-based Musée de la musique keeps archives from
luthiers and instrument makers.
Several hundreds of these documents are now accessible online.

<http://archivesmusee.citedelamusique.fr>

THE DIGITIZATION PROJECT

A PROJECT OVERVIEW

- 2 archive collections and a third in progress
- 220 registers and, very soon, 3,300 extra documents (mainly letters)
- 55,000 images and more than 70,000 at the end of the year
- 2 years of collaboration between the Museum, the Digital Library of the Cité de la musique and firms specialized in processing patrimonial documents
- 2 financial partners
 - Digitization Plan by the Ministry of Culture and Communication
 - Palazzetto Bru Zane - Centre de Musique Romantique Française (for the Érard, Pleyel & Gaveau archives only)

THE WEBSITE



French and English Texts



Simple Browsing



Reading Supports

THE ONLINE COLLECTIONS

ÉRARD, PLEYEL & GAVEAU ARCHIVES

These archives detail the production of three companies which have left their mark in the history of the French musical instrument manufacturing from the end of the 18th to the beginning of the 20th century.

Recognized in France and abroad for the quality and innovation of their production (pianos, but also harpsichords, harps...), they also greatly influenced musical life in the past two centuries by opening venues which are, for some, still running such as the Salle Pleyel and the Salle Gaveau in Paris.

Documents from this archive collection hold information on instruments manufactured by these firms:

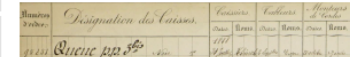
- Manufacturing processes and dates,
- Dates of sales,
- Distribution channels (clients, suppliers, intermediaries...)



International Impact

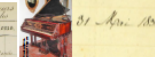
The Pleyel Company had a large influence abroad.

The documents contain the names of buyers and intermediaries.



Manufacturing Stages

In Pleyel's first workshop registers, manufacturing stages are very much detailed. For example, people involved in the manufacturing chain are listed by name and function.



Manufacturing Dates

Manufacturing dates can be found via serial numbers.

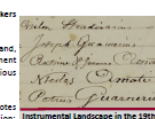
GAND, BERNADEL, CARESSA & FRANÇAIS ARCHIVES

These archives detail the daily life of great French stringed-instrument makers from 1816 to 1944.

Successors to renowned luthier Nicolas Lupot, stringed-instrument makers Gand, Bernadel, Carezza and François played a key role in French musical instrument making history - with quality productions and interventions on prestigious instruments (Amati, Stradivari, Guarneri, etc.).

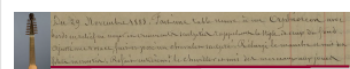
Their archives testify to their activities through accounts registers, letters and notes on instruments that went through their workshops. They hold precious information:

- Instruments descriptions (violins, viols, etc.)
- Activities (constructions, repairs, maintenance etc.)
- Networks (clients, suppliers, etc.)



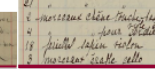
Instrumental Landscape in the 19th Century

Reading the archives sheds light on the instrumental landscape back then (owners, state of preservation, etc.).



Restoration in the 19th Century

This Ophélie (Musée de la musique, n° E.978) was transformed in the 19th century into a guitar. Donated to the museum in 1883, it was restored by the Gand and Bernadel workshop to recover an appearance deemed accurate back then: sculpted horn head, slanted bridge...



Workshop Supplies

The name, the price and the quantity of the instrument makers' supplies can be known thanks to the archives.