

A cello bow by Armin Schlieps, Seattle, c. 1990

Catalogue Number RKT-0617

\$2,500

Branded: “A. SCHLIEPS”

Repairs: There are no visible repairs.

Condition: This bow shows a few small checks and cracks in the ivory of the frog and some small marks on the stick none of which are of particular concern. Otherwise it is in very good condition with a small amount of wear.

Comments: Armin Schlieps is primarily known to players in our region for his excellent repair work and we have not had one of his bows in our shop before. This is one of the heaviest cello bows we have had in recent memory. Despite its weight it has been carefully balanced by the maker, apparently to suit the tastes of the teacher of the present owner who bought it new. This is an unquestionably strong bow. The faceting of the stick and the style of frog are somewhat reminiscent of old English bows such as those from the Dodd family and shows a particularly broad facet on the top and bottom of the stick. The head shows a more French character if still somewhat heavy. It is interesting that the frog has been fit to the stick in the manner of some Hill bows.

Schlieps, Armin Andre; Seattle, WA. 1931-. Born in Viipuri, Finland. Studied making under his father, George, and made first violin at age eight. Worked with his father throughout World War II, and assisted him at the school in Bridgend, England. Moved to New York City in 1950 and worked in the Wurlitzer shop doing bow repairs. During this time compiled an extensive collection of drawings of the bows he worked on. Worked in his father's shop in New York 1956-1970. Established own shop in Seattle in 1970. Own viola model and his father's violin model. Various oil varnishes. Handwritten label. Has made about 24 violins, 6 violas, and 2 gambas. Also has made about 200 bows. Started making them while working in the Wurlitzer shop. Early were individual copies, now using own model. Handmade fittings. Rubbed oil finish. Branded “A. SCHLIEPS”; inverted. A bow is illustrated in LOAN EXHIBITION—STRINGED INSTRUMENTS AND BOWS (New York, 1966). (*Bow illustrated on page 364*)

- from the “Violin Makers of the United States” by Thomas Wenberg (1986)

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Description: This bow has an octagonal stick of dark red-brown pernambucco wood with an ivory tip face and gold wire grip. The gold mounted ivory frog has a mother of pearl slide and plain sides. The divided adjuster is of gold and ivory. There are minor checks and cracks in the ends of the ivory frog, but no damage or repairs. There are also some very small marks in the stick. This bow is original in all its parts.

Weight: 90 grams

Balance point: 24 cm. from the adjuster

June 12, 2010