

# A violin bow by Victor Thomassin, London circa 1910

Catalogue Number: RKT-0328

\$4,000

**Branded:** “T. VICTOR”

**Repairs:** There are no visible repairs, though the ivory tip face, grip and frog were replaced by Reid Hudson c. 2007.

**Condition:** This bow is in good condition with no apparent problems.

**Comments:** This bow is healthy, slightly heavy and strong. It is sold with a certificate from Reid Hudson.

**Biography:** Victor Thomassin was born in France and worked in England after 1900 using the stamp “T. VICTOR”. It is said that this was a compromise with his various employers to somewhat conceal his identity, but still put his name on his work.

## VICTOR, T.

Bow maker at London 1900. Excellent bows which respond to the diversity of strokes necessary to first-class playing. £15, 1960.

- from the Universal Dictionary of Violin and Bow Makers by William Henley

## • Victor THOMASSIN •

*known as 'T. Victor'*  
*1859 - towards 1920*

son of Nicolas François Joseph THOMASSIN, violin and bowmaker<sup>1</sup>, and Marguerite Charlotte Elisabeth Maucotel, Victor was born in Mirecourt on April 14, 1859 (see *family tree in Claude THOMASSIN*).

Like his first cousins, Louis and Claude Auguste, he served his apprenticeship in his home town, perhaps with C. N. BAZIN, who was already well known.

He married Marie Céline Picherot on November 22, 1884, in Mirecourt.

He was still cited as a bowmaker in this town in 1893, but it is not known for whom he was working.

We next find him in 1895 at 6 Rue Lamartine, Paris 15th, but we do not know of any bows branded with his name from this period. It is certain that he was doing more restoration work than actual bowmaking.

He left for England to set up in London around 1900.

It is known that at that time he worked for different firms and that he was authorized to brand his sticks using his first name as a family name and the T of his family as the initial of a first name. This is why we find bows branded “T. VICTOR” in the English style, with:

- a very round and full head (*bows 1A to 4A*);
- a frog without mother-of-pearl eye but with a quite long, wide ferrule (*bows 1B to 4B*);
- a one-piece button (*bows 1B to 4B*).

Some cello frogs may have a square heel (*bow 4B*).

His trail disappears after 1920 and it can be assumed that he died in England.

His production is fairly interesting and does not lack a certain charm. ■

*Because of the rarity of the bows of Victor THOMASSIN, it is difficult to provide precise details of their general characteristics.*

- from L'Archet by Bernard Millant & Jean Francois Raffin

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## **A violin bow by Victor Thomassin, branded: "T. VICTOR"**

**Description:** This bow has a round stick of red-brown pernambucco wood with an ivory tip face and silver tinsel grip. The silver mounted ebony frog has a mother of pearl slide and plain sides. The adjuster is covered in silver. There are no visible repairs, though the ivory tip face, grip and frog were replaced by Reid Hudson c. 2007 and are in a similar style to the original parts.

**Weight:** 62grams

**Balance point:** 25 cm. from the adjuster

May 18, 2010