

A Violin Bow Stamped “J.HEL A LILLE”

Catalogue number RKT-0329

\$4,800

Repairs: This bow has had no apparent repairs other than the replacement of the grip.

Condition: This bow is in excellent condition and has seen a limited amount of use.

Comments: The Bazin shop of Mirecourt supplied this bow to J. Hel, an important maker and dealer who worked in Lille from 1865 to 1902. It has a nickel mounted ebony frog and adjuster. The round stick is of excellent quality, fairly strong and quite light. Consequently the balance point is closer to the grip than many other bows.

HEL, JOSEPH (full name, Pierre Joseph).

Born at Mazirot (Vosges, France) 1842.

Boyhood passed in looking after sheep in the vicinity of Mirecourt. Many times forgot his duty through being drawn to watch fiddle makers. And as he watched, dreams flashed through his mind. Apprenticed to Salzard at Mirecourt for seven years; worked for two years with Sebastien Vuillaume; and for Darche at Aix-la-Chapelle. Established at Lille, 1865. Attracted the attention of David Laurie (famed collector at Glasgow) 1880, who entrusted all his valuable instruments for restoration. Died 1902.

BAZIN, CHARLES NICOLAS.

Producer of many bows much in demand by French players. Established workshop at Mirecourt 1869. Died 1915.

Bows forming a resuscitation of the manner of Tourte. No weakness anywhere. Much in demand by French players. Stamped 'C. Bazin'.

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



The Workshop of C.N.Bazin in Mirecourt, France 1893

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A violin bow from the Bazin shop, branded: “J. Hel A Lille”

Description: This bow has a round stick of red/brown pernambucco with an ivory tip face and silver wire grip. The nickel mounted ebony frog has a mother of pearl slide and dot. The divided adjuster is of nickel and ebony. All parts appear to be original except for the grip which is a recent replacement. There are no apparent repairs.

Weight: 59 grams

Balance point: 22.5 cm. from the adjuster

May 19, 2010