

# A violin by Elophe Poirson, 1891

Catalogue Number: RKT-0054

\$22,000

**Labeled:** “No. 91 Elophe Poirson. Fait a Lyon en 1891 (signed)”

**Repairs:** This instrument came to us with well repaired cracks in the front above the saddle. Overall it is in excellent condition and shows little wear from playing. Kim has fitted a smaller (5.7mm) sound post and a slightly narrower bridge which has given it a more clear and beautiful sound.

**Condition:** This instrument is in very good condition.

**Comments:** This maker’s work shows an individual style which was apparently the product of his self-directed study, good skills and high ideals. The slightly high arch of the front combined with closely placed sound holes give this violin a rich and beautiful tone. It has a slightly covered sound as is often associated with French instruments, but is often praised for its clarity and darkness as well.

**POIRSON, ELOPHE.**

Born at Landaville (Vosges), 1840. Resident at Lyons. Died 1918. At first an amateur who, having an extensive knowledge of wood carving, set out on the perilous path of violin construction. Inherent inventive and executive facilities quickly brought an improvement on his modest initiatory attempts. Gave himself every opportunity of acquiring knowledge concerning the measurements etc. of the best models of precedent times, from whence, being essentially eclectic, he derived accuracy of proportion as well as perception of the beautiful. Submitted (1878) two violins to Marsick (famous Parisian virtuoso), who was so enamoured that he played several times on one or other at his recitals. This happy verdict encouraged Poirson to devote his whole time and ardour to the profession.

Awarded medals at various expositions dating from 1889. Though not treasures of remarkable beauty his instruments are of graceful design and well timbered. Fine oil varnish of a red shade, specially prepared by him after several years' experiments, greatly etherealised, volatile and alcoholic; which, according to his widely advertised statements, imparted astonishing resonance and mellowness to the tone. Produced about 200 violins, violas and 'cellos.

Lyon, 1900

—(written, and bearing his portrait)

No. 185. Elophe Poirson

Sometimes branded “Poirson” below button. £75, 1960.

- From: “Universal Dictionary of Violin and Bow Makers” by William Henley

## A violin by Elophe Poirson, 1891

Catalogue Number: RKT-0054

\$22,000



**Labeled:** “No. 91 Elophe Poirson. Fait a Lyon en 1891 (signed)”

**Description:** This instrument has a one-piece maple back, showing a beautiful medium flame. The sides and neck are of similar wood. The two-piece front is of spruce showing fine grain becoming broader towards the edges. The fittings are of ebony. The varnish is of a rich dark red colour, in good condition and showing minor wear from playing. There are well repaired cracks in the front above the saddle. There are no other visible repairs.

**Back measurements:**

Length: 358 mm.    Upper bout: 170 mm.    Middle bout: 111 mm.    Lower bout: 209 mm.

October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009