

The William Moennig & Son Collection to be auctioned online

Contents of century-old violin shop for sale

New York, February 22, 2010 —Tarisio Auctions will sell the collection of the renowned William Moennig & Son violin shop in an extensive online auction June 22, 23 and 24. The New York-based Internet auction house Tarisio will sell over 800 lots of instruments, bows, photographs, books, ephemera and seasoned tonewood. An online catalog of the complete auction will be available March 15.

The century-old Moennig family firm shut its doors for the final time on December 11, 2009. After a four-generation dynasty of distinguished dealers named William Moennig, there was no successor to take over the Philadelphia firm. The entire contents of Moennig's four-story Locust Street brownstone will be sold.

“For 100 years Moennig had something for everyone, from the high-end to the low-end, for the top soloists, the most distinguished collectors and the most enthusiastic amateurs. It'll be the same with this sale,” said Jason Price, director of Tarisio. “Some items haven't been offered for sale for decades, and it will be exciting for people to experience them. It's a treasure trove and a window on a bygone era.”

It took five days, two full-sized moving vans and a piano mover to empty the brownstone, Price said. There were many notable discoveries: signed photographs of Toscanini, Stravinsky and Joachim; bow cases from Sartory and Tubbs, and a collection of 60 to 70 violin heads, some from great 18th and 19th century Italian makers like Testore, Landolfi and Gagliano.

“Every shop keeps a junkyard of salvaged parts and pieces, but this was amazing,” Price said. “Dozens of scrolls from great Italian makers—sleeping in a box in a closet for decades.”

Among the items to be sold are:

- Over 100 fine instruments and bows from the Moennig private collection
- Instruments made by five generations of the Moennig family
- Photographs of nearly every major musician of the 20th century, many signed and inscribed
- Early 20th century custom cabinets for storing and displaying violins and bows
- A large selection of seasoned tonewood
- Vintage fittings and accessories
- Seasoned bridge blanks
- A Steinway 7-foot model-B grand piano from c. 1925
- “New-old-stock” bows and accessories
- A large collection of unusual and historical instruments
- A rare mint condition Ferdinand Gagliano viola d'amore
- A fifty-six binder photographic archive of the instruments and bows sold by the firm
- Reference materials and books

A hard copy catalog displaying selected lots will be available from Tarisio at the end of March. All lots can be viewed at Tarisio's New York office from April 1 until June 21 (Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., appointments recommended). Tarisio will also hold a viewing April 24 and 25 at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston.

Sale highlights can be viewed here: <http://tarisio.com/wp/2010/02/announcing-the-moennig-collection/>

For more information, contact Tarisio at 212-307-7224 or info@tarisio.com.