

Basic Detail Report



Archlute

Date

1639

Primary Maker

Pietro Railich

Description

This lute bears the label of Matteo Sellas, a prominent guitar and lute maker in Venice, but concealed within the interior of the bowl, not visible unless the lute is disassembled, the inked signature of his younger colleague Pietro Railich can be found. This signature, apparently dated 1639, is key evidence that he worked for Sellas early in his career, and he later settled in Padua.

Stringing: seven double courses over fingerboard; seven double courses to second head
Soundboard: two-piece quarter-cut fir: medium grain broadening at the edges
Bowl: 15 alternating ebony and ivory staves, divided by two-ply ebony and ivory strips
Clasp: three-piece ebony and ivory, divided by two-ply ebony and ivory strips; later ebony and ivory strap loop engraved with X by Robert Lundberg
Head: black-painted light poplar veneered with ebony and ivory with ivory binding and ebony and ivory strip trim; two pegboxes; back of pegbox veneered with alternating stripes of ebony and ivory divided by two-ply ebony and ivory strips; later ebony and ivory strap loop engraved with X by Robert Lundberg
Neck: poplar

veneered with alternating stripes of ebony and ivory divided by two-ply ebony and ivory strips; neck possibly later, around late 17th century, reusing original veneers, according to Robert Lundberg
Binding: ebony with ebony and ivory strip trim
Fingerboard: ebony
Nuts: ivory with recesses between strings; later, by Robert Lundberg
Bridge: black-painted poplar tie bridge with later ivory and ebony veneered face installed by Robert Lundberg
Tuners: 28 boxwood friction pegs with integral pins
Rose: floral and vine pattern carved from wood of top
Lacquer: none
Bowl lining: paper strips
Top block: spruce, the grain running parallel to plane of back at joint with top; lower half of light hardwood; iron nail through top block into neck; hammer marks on top block
Braces: 10 lateral spruce braces; six fan braces at lower end

Technical drawing available for purchase.

Dimensions

Total archlute length: 1068 mm Top length: 410 mm Maximum body width: 308 mm Maximum bowl height: 114 mm Head length: 418 mm Head width, top: 19 mm Head width, bottom: 78 mm Neck length (nut to ribs): 247 mm Neck width, nut: 85 mm Neck width, heel: 107 mm Soundhole diameter: 85 mm Vibrating string length (nut to bridge edge): 566 mm and 828 mm