



Cistre

Date

1760-1780 ca.

Description

Earlier English paper label was inserted in this later French instrument, possibly originally. Stringing: 11 strings, 3 single bass courses and 4 double treble courses Soundboard: spruce, wide grain Back: one-piece quarter-cut maple with narrow curl descending from treble to treble; pins through back into neck and bottom blocks Ribs: one-piece quarter-cut maple with faint, narrow curl Head and neck: maple; head above machine tuners separate piece head terminates in a scroll Binding and purfling: angled strips of mother-of-pearl and ebony on top with single dark hardwood strip set in from edge; edge of back painted black Fingerboard: veneered with tortoise shell over red paint with ebony and pearl decoration at upper and lower ends; rounded fingerboard end; 14 brass bar frets; five capotasto positions Nut: bone Bridge: black-

stained maple Tuner: single brass watch key mechanism Saddle: ebony; not flush with top Endpins: 11 ivory Strap button: boxwood on lower rib Rose: missing Rosette: mother-of-pearl triangles and strips and ebony strips surrounded on each side by purfling strips, set in from edge of soundhole