

Basic Detail Report



Resonator banjo-ukulele

Date

1922-1930 ca.

Description

See banjo-ukulele with similar alternating light and dark wood rim, NMM 3320, probably sold by Lyon & Healy. NMM 10,665 has a groove on the inside of the rim that appears to be without a function. In NMM 3320 this groove accommodates six brackets of the Rocco A. Carlucci tension hoop patent (U. S. Patent No. 1,409,078, awarded March 7, 1922). It is possible that this instrument was designed to have either type of tension hoop, or that the Carlucci patent took advantage of a groove that was already part of the manufacturing process for this type of instrument. The banjo ukulele was invented by Alvin D. Keech around 1918, and was popular through the 1920s and 1930s. Neck: three-piece maple-mahogany-maple Peghead: shield-shaped upper edge; mahogany veneer with alternating light and dark wood chevron capped edge lined with maple strip; chevron light and dark wood inlay divided by maple strip and lined with maple strips along center line Fingerboard: mahogany; fifteen nickel-silver frets; continues decoration of peghead Heel cap: mahogany Rim: alternating 23mm-wide pieces of maple and mahogany, the grain running perpendicular to the head; alternating light and dark wood chevron capped edges lined with maple strip; groove on inside diameter at midpoint, possibly to accommodate a Rocco Carlucci patented tension hoop. See NMM 3320. Head: calf-skin Tension hoop: nickel-plated steel with seven nickel-plated steel dome-headed screws, set into wood of rib Back: arched three-ply mahogany-maple-maple plywood with two f-holes; affixed to rim with six small brass tacks Nut: mahogany Tuners: nickel-plated brass pegs with tension screws and black bakelite heads Bridge: missing; green felt damper Tailpiece: nickel-plated brass sheet metal affixed to body with small brass tack Finish: clear varnish with craquelure

Dimensions

Total instrument length: 526mm; 20-13/16 inches Vibrating string length: 312 mm; 12-1/4 inches
Fingerboard length: 229 mm; 9 inches Fingerboard width at nut: 30 mm; 1-3/16 inches Fingerboard width
at body: 45 mm; 1-13/16 inches Head diameter: 132 mm; 6-3/8 inches Rim depth: 61 mm; 2-7/16 inches