

Andrei Guarneri (1626–1698) - Cremona, Italy
Gioffredo (Giofredda) Cappa (1644–1717) — Northwest Italy

Certificates and Documentation:

- Vidoudez, Geneva
- William Hill & Sons, London
- Hammig & Co., Berlin (1894)
- Caressa, Paris (1928)
- Extensive provenance, including photographs and a detailed article from the *Geneva Tribune* (1929)

In the early 1600s, the Guarneri family emerged as one of the central dynasties in the history of violin making, with **Andrei Guarneri** standing as its founding and most influential figure. A devoted pupil of **Nicolò Amati**, the master of Cremona, Guarneri absorbed Amati's refined principles of craftsmanship and carried them forward in his own work, leaving a profound mark on the art of violin making.

Intriguingly, accompanying documentation suggests that the **top plate** of this instrument may have been crafted by **Gioffredo Cappa**, another distinguished student of Amati and a contemporary of Guarneri. However, both the **Hammig bill of sale** (Berlin, 1893) and the **Vidoudez certificate** assert that the violin is entirely the work of **Andrei Guarneri**.

Recent examination of the instrument's varnish under ultraviolet light revealed that both top and back share an **identical varnish composition**, strongly indicating that the violin was produced by a single hand.

Adding to its historical interest is a *Geneva Tribune* article from 1929, recounting the instrument's dramatic rescue from war-torn Russia in the early 20th century. Together with its rich documentation and unbroken provenance, this violin presents a remarkable piece of musical and cultural history.

Today, a pristine violin made entirely by Andrei Guarneri could command a market value exceeding **one million dollars**, underscoring both the rarity and significance of this instrument.

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