

## CHARACTERIZATION OF A STRADIVARI'S TOP PLATE

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This work aims to characterize the materials used in the realization of a decorated violin top plate ascribed to Antonio Stradivari (17th century) with different diagnostic techniques and a particular analytical methodology to study the surface coatings and decorations. The used methodology is of extreme importance since every analysis and raw data collection were performed *in situ*, and in a lapse of time compatible with owner's needs. UV-induced visible fluorescence and optical digital macro photography highlighted the most interesting study areas, while ED-XRF coupled with  $\mu$ -FTIR spectroscopy gave information on the compositions of the surface layers and materials. The investigations were aimed to identify the presence of original varnish layers and to characterize the composition of the decorations. A dendrochronological analysis was performed to assess the production period and to confirm the attribution to Antonio Stradivari.

The results include the identification of the dye used for the black layers of the purflings and the characterization of the decoration's matrix and white elements.

### References/Bibliografia

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