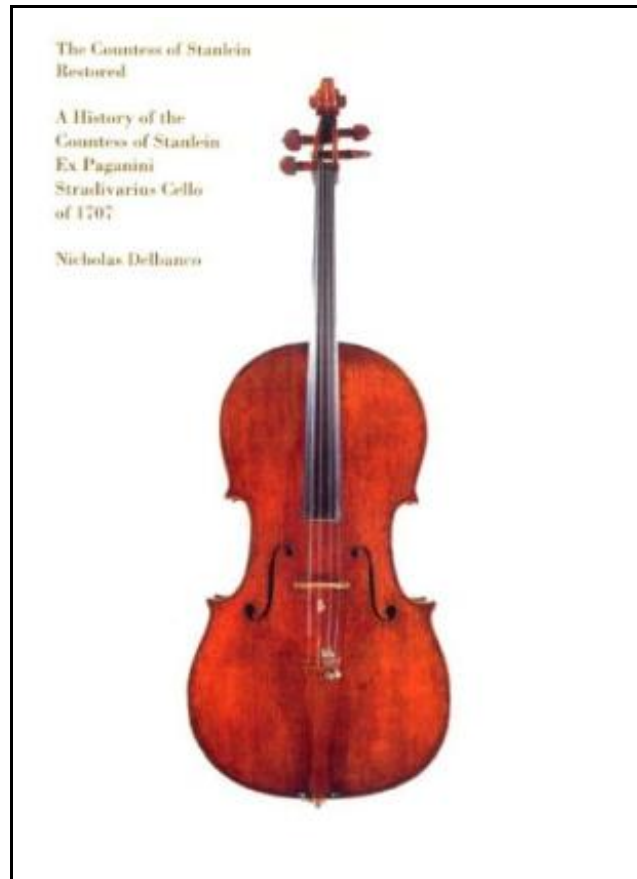


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THE COUNTESS OF STANLEIN RESTORED: A HISTORY OF THE PAGANINI STRADIVARIUS CELLO OF 1707

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Verso Books. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Countess of Stanlein Restored: A History of the Paganini Stradivarius Cello of 1707, Nicholas Delbanco, Brandt and Brandt, It is a truth universally acknowledged that Antonio Stradavari of Cremona (1644-1737) was the noblest of bowed wooden stringed instrument makers. His work remains the Platonic ideal and the template for contemporary 'luthiers'; present day technology may hope to match but not alter the standard of such craftsmanship. Extant examples of the master's instruments are numerous -- but cellos from the ""great period"" (1707-1720) are relatively few. The Countess of Stanlein cello is one of the best-known in this group. It has been copied often, physically dissected, discovered in a barrow on its way to a municipal dump, owned by Paganini, and applauded in hall after hall. Today the 'Stanlein' belongs to the cellist Bernard Greenhouse. In his eighties and semi-retires, he determined 'to give back something of value to the world of music that had given him so much.' In September 1998 he deposited the cello in the New York atelier of the revered luthier Rene Morel. The craft of instrument repair remains quasi-medieval. Morel began a complete restoration of the instrument, a painstaking and meticulous enterprise that took him nearly two years. This book tracks that progress - the intricacies, anxieties and pleasures that precede the cello's triumphal unveiling at the World Cello Congress in June 2000. Its subject is a work of art that must prove nonetheless functional, for the Countess of Stanlein Stradivarius is only itself when played.



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