



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Adrien-Francois Servais Papers

NMAH.AC.0195

Mumia Shimaka-Mbasu

1986

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Adrien-Francois Servais Papers
<b>Date:</b>	1842-1884
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0195
<b>Creator:</b>	Servais, Joseph (Author) Servais, Adrien-Francois, 1807-1866 (musician) (Collector)
<b>Source:</b>	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Musical Instruments (Collector)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.5 Cubic feet (1 box)
<b>Language:</b>	In French.
<b>Summary:</b>	Five letters of Adrien-Francois Servais, a nineteenth century cellist, pioneer in the use of the endpin in performance, and owner of the "Servais" Stradivarius cello.
<b>Container:</b>	Box 1 (Shared Box)

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Miss Charlotte Bergen, 1981.

### Provenance

Transferred from the Division of Musical Instruments to the Archives Center, February 1986.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Mumia Shimaka-Mbasu, 1986

### Preferred Citation

Adrien-Francois Servais Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Adrien-Francois Servais was among the first of the nineteenth century virtuosi whose exploration of the capabilities of the cello stimulated composers to consider that instrument's capabilities. Renowned for his acrobatic technique, which dazzled audiences throughout Europe, and his expressive style and powerful tone, Servais was once described as "the Paganini of the cello."

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## Scope and Contents

Five letters of Adrien-Francois Servais, describing his personal experiences as he traveled and gave concerts, including three from his son Joseph Servais (1850-1885), dated September 7, 1871, June 7, 1877, and December 30, 1884. Also includes a photograph of Adrien-Francois Servais with cello with an endpin and a lithograph of Francois Servais, signed and dedicated to Joseph Fishoff.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- Cello
- Musical instruments
- Musicians -- 1830-1880

### Types of Materials:

- Correspondence -- 19th century
- Lithographs -- 19th century
- Photographs -- 1850-1900

### Names:

- Fishoff, Joseph
- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Musical Instruments