

QANBUS, KIBANGALA, & GABUSI



A PORTFOLIO

MONOXYLE LUTES / INDEX : v.16 - July 2013

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THE QANBUS LUTE (YEMEN)



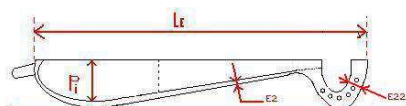
Item n°: 001

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

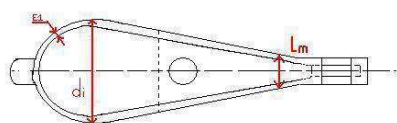
Lute maker : Yahya HAMID

Age / Year : made circa 1960

Owner : Pierre d'HEROUVILLE



Diamètre Di = 210 mm



Le = 780 mm

Lm= 47 mm

Pi= 110 mm

Observations : reported to have been made by the yemeni lutemaker Yahya HAMID, Beit Al-MAHDI, San'a, when he was living in Egypt. This instrument was presumably his private item. So that QUTURI says this item was made in « Udi Misri » - egyptian wood – . The Soundbox diameter is oversized and the head-carved pegbox is the major feature. This was latter poorly repaired and decorated, possibly after the owner passed away in the 90's.

(photo : Pierre d'HEROUVILLE)



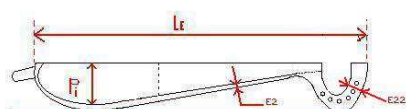
Item n°: 001

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : Yahya HAMID

Age / Year : made circa 1960

Owner : Pierre d'HEROUVILLE

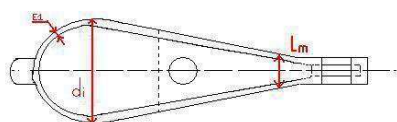


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Le = 780 mm

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Observations : reported to have been made by the yemeni lutemaker Yahya HAMID, Beit Al-MAHDI, San'a, when he was living in Egypt. This instrument was presumably his private item. So that QUTURI says this item was made in « Udi Misri » - egyptian wood – . The Soundbox diameter is oversized and the head-carved pegbox is the major feature. This was latter poorly repaired and decorated, possibly after the owner passed away in the 90's.

(photo : Pierre d'HEROUVILLE)



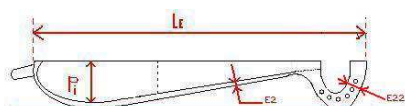
Item n°: 002

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : Fuad AL QUTURI

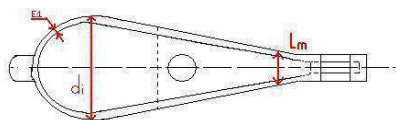
Age / Year : made january 2006

Owner : order by Horniman Museum.



Diamètre Di = 180 mm

Le = 790/850 mm



Lm= 38 mm

Pi= 110 mm

Observations : numerous flower-shaped carved ornamentations.

Order for Horniman Museum, Forest Hill, UK

Wood : Tunub

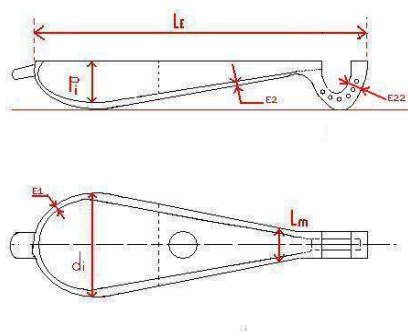


Item n°: 002

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : Fuad AL QUTURI

Owner : order by Horniman Museum

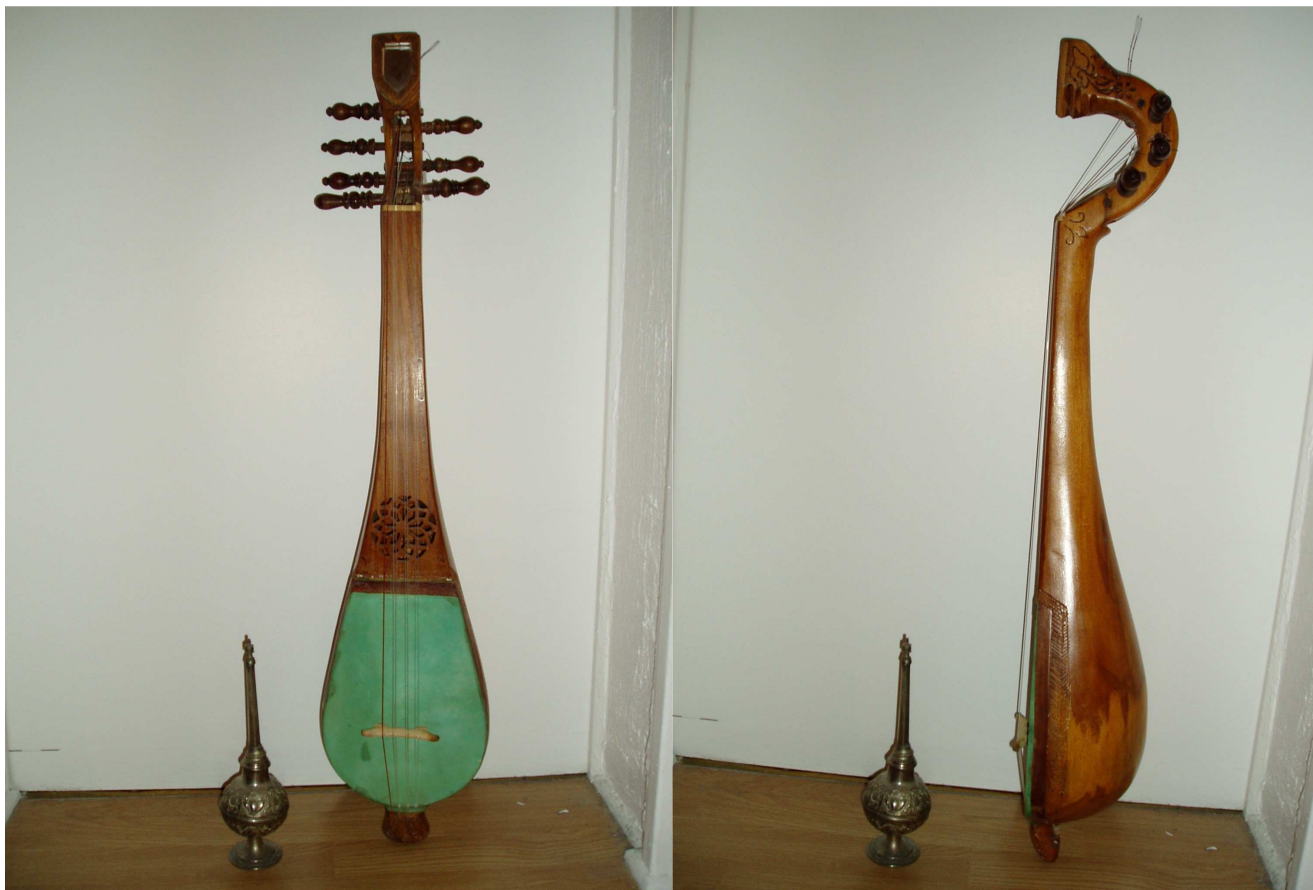


Observations : numerous flower-shaped carved ornamentations.

Order for Horniman Museum, Forest Hill, UK

Wood : Tunub

Picture above by Samir MOKRANI – Ghina Sana'ani preservation program, UNESCO



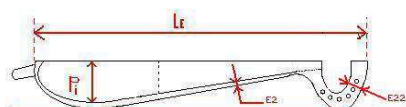
Item n°: 003

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : Fuad AL QUTURI

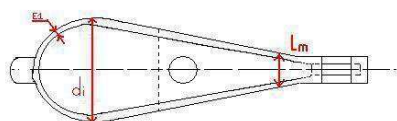
Age / Year : made june2004

Owner : Pierre d'HEROUVILLE



Diamètre Di = 180 mm

Le = 790/850 mm



Lm= 36 mm

Pi= 110 mm

Observations : one item in a Batch of four very similar lutes (same production batch as item 004). This Batch was formerly made in the occasion of an exhibition in the cultural Center of the french Embassy, San'a, June of 2004.

Wood : Tunub



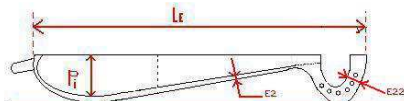
Item n°: 004

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : Fuad AL QUTURI

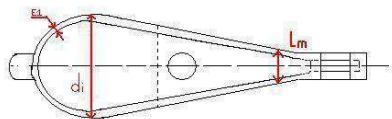
Age / Year : made june 2004

Owner : Hasan AL AJAMI



Diamètre Di = 180 mm

Le = 790/850 mm



Lm= mm

Pi= mm

Observations : one item in a Batch of four very similar lutes (same production batch as item 003). This Batch was formerly made in the occasion of an exhibition in the cultural Center of the french Embassy, San'a, June of 2004.

Unlike most of the other items of the Batch, this item was particularly decorated, and the front Design of the Pegbox is very similar with the item 002 – Horniman's Order -

Wood : Tunub



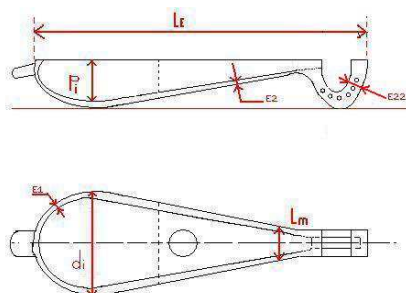
Item n°: 005

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : Fuad AL QUTURI

Age / Year : supposedly circa 1990

Owner : unknown



Diamètre Di = mm

Le = mm

Lm= mm

Pi= mm

Observations : Fuad AL QUTURI has produced very few old-style copies of the vintage qanbus, after some vintage instruments of the early XXth century (see patterns, items 006 & 007),.. He copied the black painting, the carved ornamentations of the soundbox, the mosaic decorated neck, and imagined the extra design of the decorated skin.

Two items of such a Works were made, supposedly in the 90s. Owner's name are unavailable. . (Photo : lutemaker 's collection)



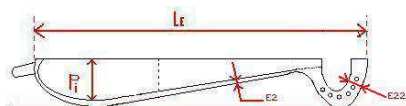
Item n°: 005

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : Fuad AL QUTURI

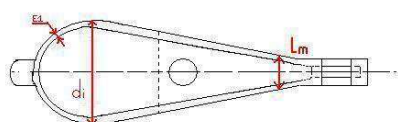
Age / Year : supposedly circa 1990

Owner : unknown



Diamètre Di = mm

Le = mm



Lm= mm

Pi= mm

Observations : Fuad AL QUTURI has produced very few old-style copies of the vintage qanbus after some vintage instruments of the early XXth century (see patterns, items 006 & 007),... He copied the black painting, the carved ornamentations of the soundbox, the mosaic decorated neck, and imagined the extra design of the decorated skin.

Two items of such a Works were made, supposedly in the 90s. Owner's name are unavailable. (Photo : lutemaker 's collection)



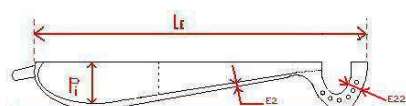
Item n°: 006

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : anonymous

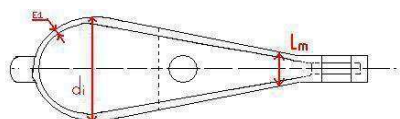
Age / Year : supposedly circa 1900

Owner : Jean LAMBERT



Diamètre D_i = mm

L_e = mm



L_m = mm

P_i < 100 mm

Observations : interesting ornamentations : mosaic-decorated fingerboard, carved flowers on the rear soundbox, copper plate on the soundboard. Most of the schemes have inspired QUTURI.

(Photo Pierre d'HEROUILLE by courtesy of Jean LAMBERT)



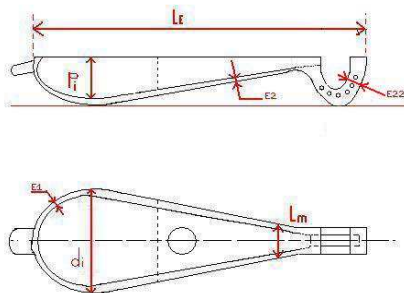
Item n°: 007

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : anonymous

Age / Year : supposedly circa 1900

Owner : Jean LAMBERT



Diamètre Di = mm

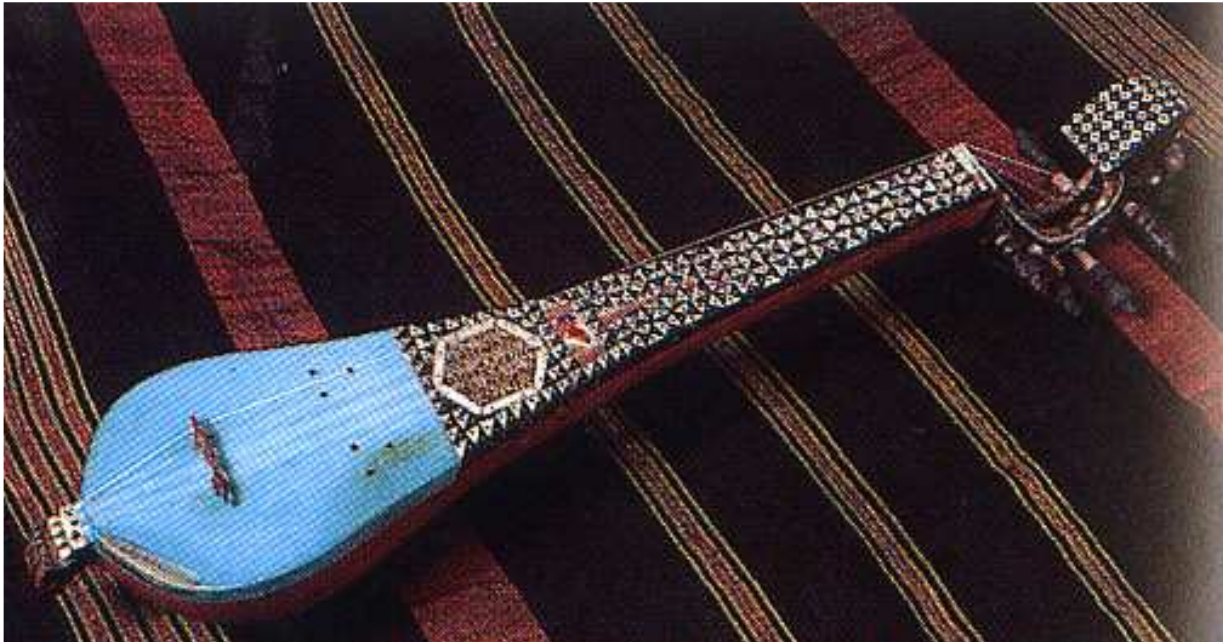
Le = mm

Lm= mm

Pi < 100 mm

Observations : mosaic-decorated fingerboard.

(Photo Pierre d'HEROUILLE, by courtesy of Jean LAMBERT)



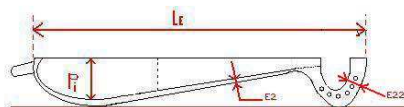
Item n°: 008

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : anonymous

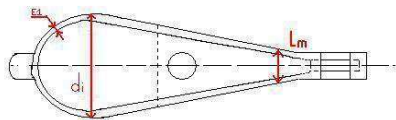
Age / Year : supposedly circa 1900
(controversial info claimin 16th century)

Owner : Jean LAMBERT



Diamètre Di = 220 mm

Le = 850 mm



Lm= mm

Pi = 100 mm

Observations : mosaic-decorated fingerboard. Pattern of item 011.

(Photo CERIMM/ Abbaye de Royaumont)



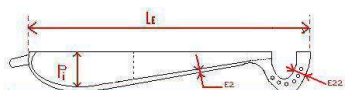
Item n°: 009

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : anonymous

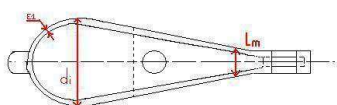
Age / Year : circa 1878

Owner : Yahya AL NUNU



Diamètre Di = mm

Le = mm



Lm= mm

Pi < 100 mm

Observations : ageing, darkened wood. This historical item is now for sale. This was successively property of 5 old poets, including Qasem AL AKHFASH, Ahmad FAYI, and Yahya AL NUNU . Most of them were Homayni purists. Since 2007 AD, the item is being held by the Musee Branly in Paris.

Wood : jowz.. Original Leather Spares available. The 2nd circle on the board is a sticker. (Photo : published by Inedit/MCM)



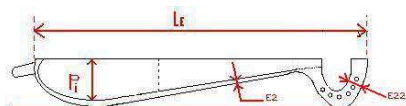
Item n°: 010

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : Fuad AL QUTURI

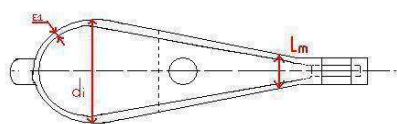
Age / Year : early 2000's

Owner : Larry FRANCIS HILARIAN (SNG)



Diamètre Di = 170 mm

Le = 810 mm



Lm= 40 mm

Pi= 110 mm

Observations : carved pegbox – see items 002, 006, 008 -, this item is especially ornamented with pearls.

Wood : Tunub



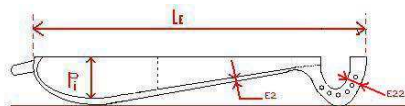
Item n°: 010

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : Fuad AL QUTURI

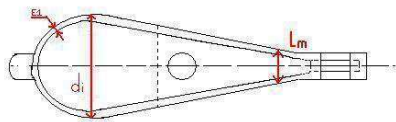
Age / Year : early 2000's

Owner : Larry FRANCIS HILARIAN (SNG)



Diamètre Di = 170 mm

Le = 810 mm

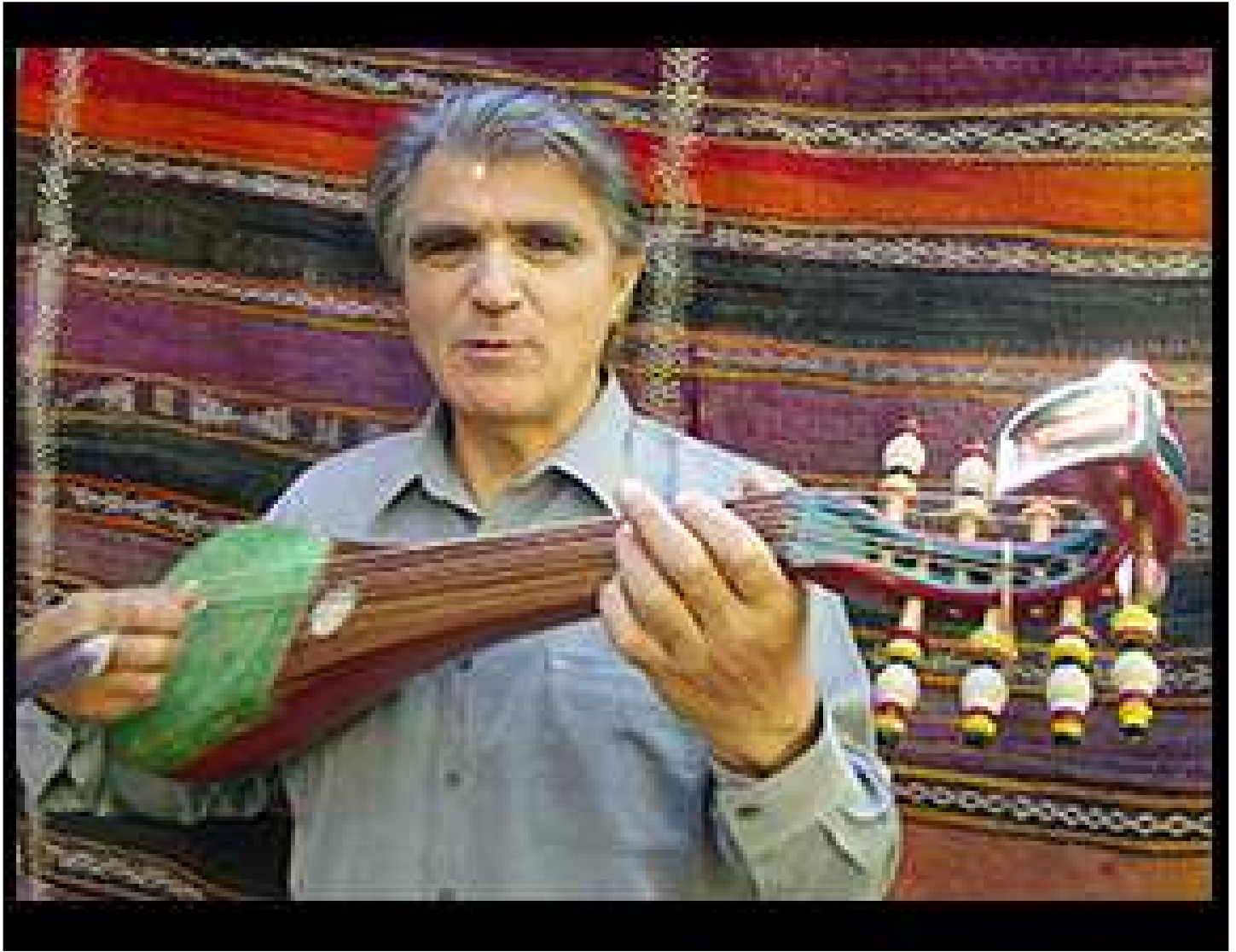


Lm= 40 mm

Pi= 110 mm

Observations : carved pegbox – see items 002, 006, 008 -, this item is especially ornamented with pearls. Pearl-ornamented pegbox, carved rose, mirror : many details suggest this item has been inspired by the earlier item # 13.

Wood : Tunub



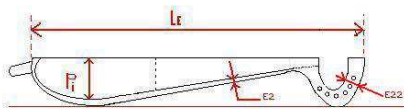
Item n°: 011

Name : Qanbus (replica)

Lute maker : unknown, presumably moroccan

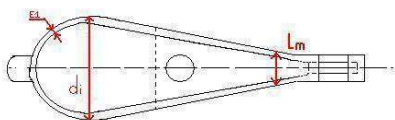
Age / Year : early 2000's

Owner : Marc LOOPUYT (BEG)



Diamètre D_i = 220 mm (est. same as Item 008)

L_e = 850 mm (est. same as Item 008)



L_m = mm

P_i = 100 mm (est. same as Item 008)

Observations : replica after Item 008, according to its technical check up by the CERIMM

(photo : personal website of Marc LOOPUYT)



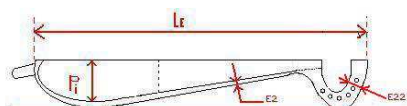
Item n°: 011

Name : Qanbus (replica)

Lute maker : unknown, presumably moroccan

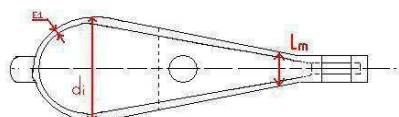
Age / Year : early 2000's

Owner : Marc LOOPUYT (BEG)



Diamètre D_i = 220 mm (est. same as Item 008)

L_e = 850 mm (est. same as Item 008)



L_m = mm

P_i = 100 mm (est. same as Item 008)

Observations : replica after Item 008, according to its technical check up by the CERIMM .

(photo : personal website of Marc LOOPUYT)



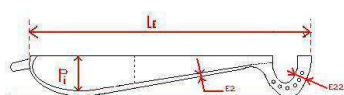
Item n°: 012

Name : Qanbus, Turbi (Hadramawt)

Age / Year : supposed early XXth century

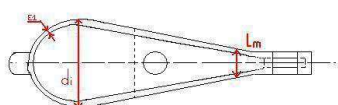
Lute maker : anonymous

Owner : Yemen House of Culture, San'a



Diamètre Di = mm

Le = mm



Lm= mm

Pi < mm

Observations : This ancient item is one of the very few hadrami example available in the world. Fingerboard design is very same artwork as items 101 & 504. Skin-made soundboard seems to have been partially restaured. **The specific feature of this item is to be foldable from the middle area** (see boulderline between fingerboard and soundboard).

Wood : unknown.

(Photo : courtesy of Dr Nizar GHANEM & Jean LAMBERT, in the occasion of the exhibition in french cultural center, San'a, june 2004)



Muhammad al-Jumâ'î playing on his Yemeni lute (*tarab/qanbûs*)

(photo Rafiq al-Akuri)

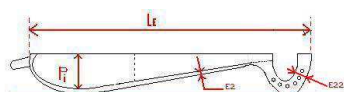
Item n°: **013**

Name : Qanbus , Tarab (San'a, Yemen)

Age / Year : supposed early XXth century

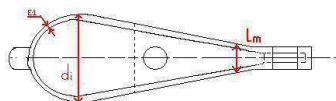
Lute maker : anonymous

Owner : Muhammad AL JUMA'I, San'a



Diamètre Di = mm

Le = mm



Lm= mm

Pi < mm

Observations : A massive instrument. Soundboard is same trapezoid shape as items # 005, 007, and suggests this to be an ancient, large-scale design. The illustrated fingerboard has been unfortunately substituted during summer 2008.

Wood : unknown.

(Photo : courtesy of Rafik Al-Akuri, Ghina Sana'ani preservation program, UNESCO Newsletter, San'a, Aug 2008)



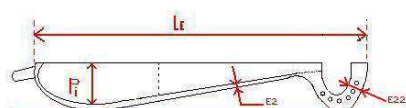
Item n°: 014

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : ???

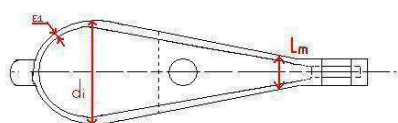
Age / Year : estimated 60 years

Owner : Yemeni Cultural Center



Diamètre Di = about 180 mm

Le = about 880 mm



Lm= mm

Pi= mm

Observations : this item was formerly the property of the famous artist Muhammad Hamud AL-HARITHI, until this was purchased by the National Yemeni Cultural Center in San'a, when HARITHI passed away (early 2007). HARITHI's family claims this was even held before by singer Qasem AL-AKHFASH.

Wood : ?



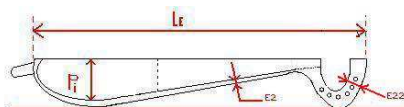
Item n°: **same as 014**

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : ???

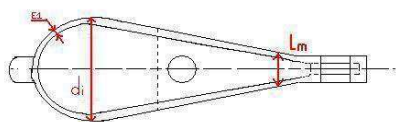
Age / Year : estimated 60 years

Owner : Yemeni Cultural Center



Diamètre Di = 180 mm

Le = about 850 mm



Lm= mm

Pi= mm

Observations : photo represents an item very similar in construction technics with item 014, but original pegbox design. Was shot in november 2008 in a curio shop in Kawkaban. Pegs design very rough as well. Item 014 was formerly the property of the famous Muhammad Hamud AL-HARITHI, until this was purchased by the National Yemeni Cultural Center in San'a, when HARITHI passed away (early 2007). HARITHI's family claims this was even held before by early singer Qasem « Mohammad » AL-AKHFASH.
Wood : ?



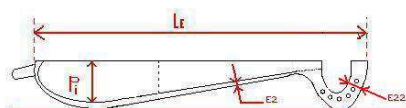
Item n°: **015**

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : Fuad AL QUTURI

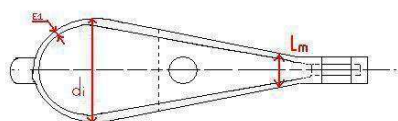
Age / Year : 2008

Owner : Samir MOKRANI / Ali AL-ANSI



Diamètre Di = 220 mm

Le = 810 mm



Lm= 38 mm

Pi= 110 mm

Observations : Enlarged designed comparing to the usual QUTURI's production, and now remnant for a former demand by Qasem « Mohammad » AL-AKHFASH for wider soundbox. Actually the soundbox is much less deep comparing to items 002, 006, 008. In this regard this is echoing less loud than these items. Carved pegbox – see items 002, 006, 008 -. In late 2008, this item was supposed to be a present from MOKRANI to Ali AL-ANSI's homonymous nephew.

Wood : Tunub



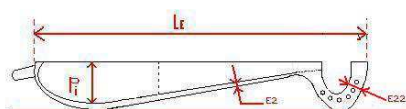
Item n°: 016

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : Fuad AL-QUTURI

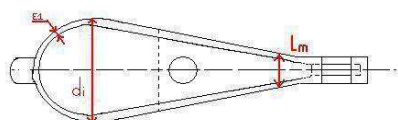
Age / Year : 2008

Owner : Samir MOKRANI



Diamètre Di = 180/190 mm

Le = 790/850 mm



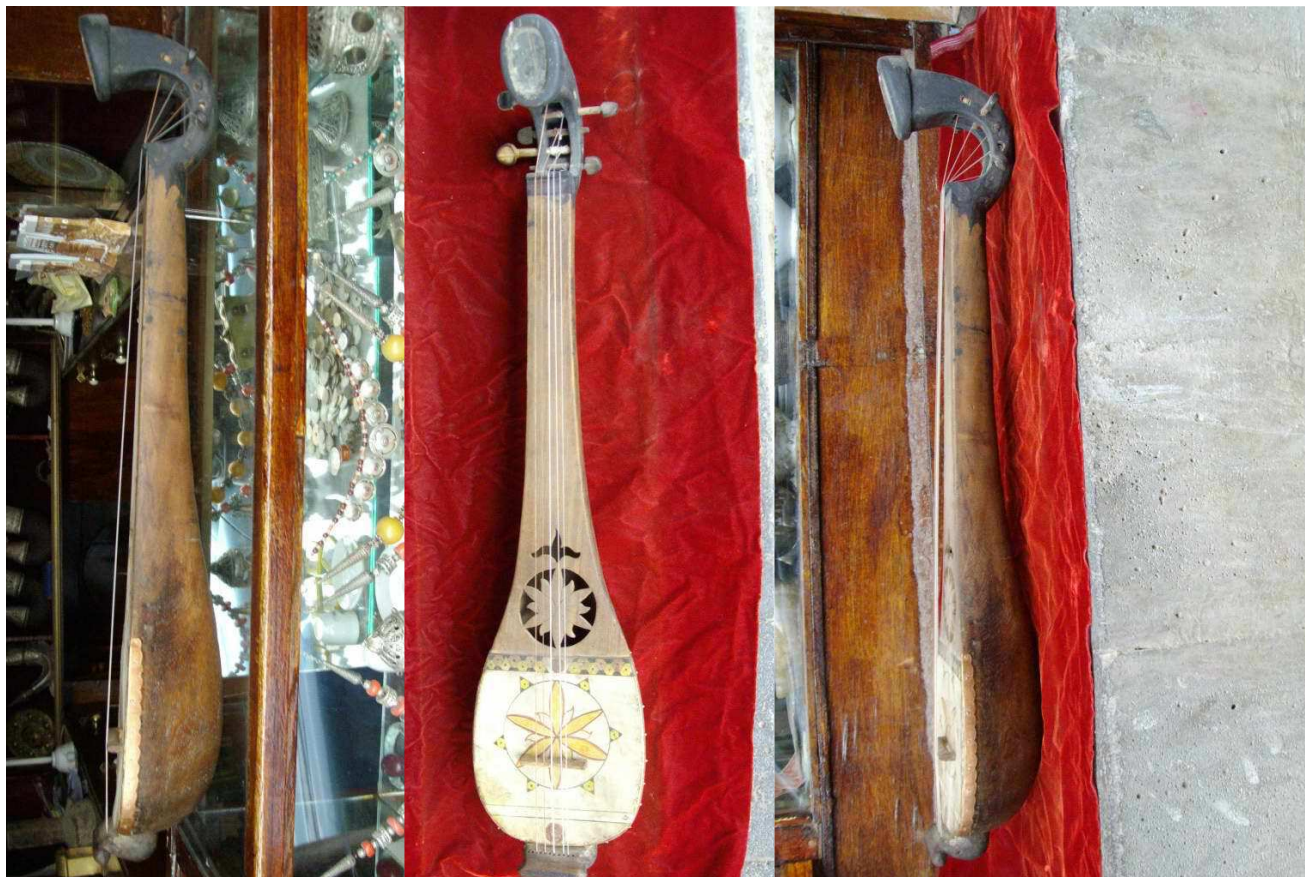
Lm= 38 mm

Pi= 110 mm

Observations : Special order for owner Samir MOKRANI. Soundboard is slightly oversized, and the deliberate thinness of the soundboard skin is visible all around the box. Acoustic speaking, it sounds quite loud.

Wood : tunub

Fac simile Pegbox similar with item 006, 007



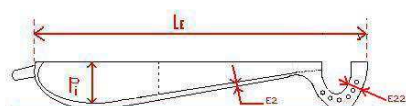
Item n°: 017

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : ???

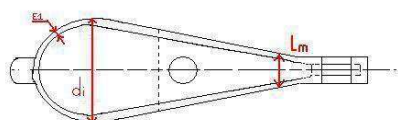
Age / Year : reportedly 80 years

Owner : antique dealer San'a



Diamètre Di = about 160/170 mm

Le = about 800 mm



Lm= mm

Pi= mm

Observations : this poor quality item seems to be a toy-instrument. Manufacturing quality is poor, height of the strings is outrageously improper for a correct lute playing. Soundbox much insufficient Soundboard design is superb and suggest the instrument has been used for decoration only. Interesting copper stripe decoration along the soundboard skin.

Currently held by a antique dealer in San'a s suq.

Wood : ?



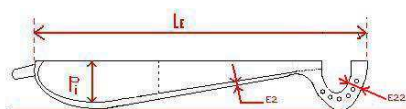
Item n°: 017

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : ???

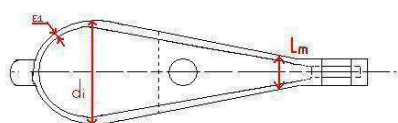
Age / Year : reportedly 80 years

Owner : antique dealer San'a



Diamètre Di = about 160 mm

Le = about 800 mm



Lm= mm

Pi= mm

Observations : this poor quality item seems to be a toy-instrument. Manufacturing quality is poor, height of the strings is outrageously improper for a correct lute playing. Soundbox much insufficient Soundboard design is superb and suggest the instrument has been used for decoration only. Interesting copper stripe decoration along the soundboard skin.

Currently held by a antique dealer in San'a s suq.

Wood : ?



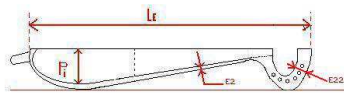
Item n°: 018

Name : Qanbus, Turbi (Hadramawt)

Age / Year : supposed early XXth century

Lute maker : anonymous

Owner : Museum of Edimburgh

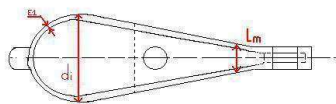


Diamètre Di = mm

Le = mm

Lm= mm

Pi < mm



Observations : This ancient item is one of the very few foldable example available in the world; see also item 012. **The specific feature of this item is to be foldable from the middle area** (see boulderline between fingerboard and soundboard).

Pegbox features the same mirror as items 002, 003, 004,006, 006, 007, 010, 013, 014, 016. Beads artwork on sounboard and peg box is especially sophisticated. The rose is carved in a mauresque pattern. Pegs are not in the usual local style of Sanaa, but possibly retrieved from a fiddle.

Wood : unknown.

(Photo : courtesy of Samir MOKRANI and Edimburgh Museum, 2010)



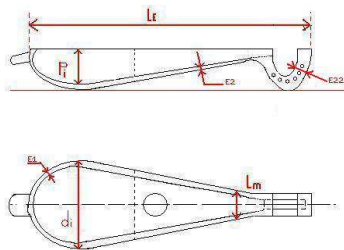
Item n°: 019

Name : Qanbus, Turbi (Hadramawt)

Age / Year : supposed early XXth century

Lute maker : anonymous

Owner : Metropolitan Museum, NYC, USA



Diamètre D_i = mm

L_e = mm

L_m = mm

P_i < mm

Observations : This ancient item is held by the Metropolitan Museum, and this is not reported as ever displayed . 5 pegs& strings are missed.

The finishing art doesn't refer to any formerly known Yemeni item, but denies the alledged origin. The design, size and pegbox shape suggest an alternate source, which could be Swahili coast (see items 101, 104, 105) or Indonesia (see items 301, 302, 318, 319)

Wood : unknown.

(Photo : courtesy of Metropolitan Museum Museum website, 2010)



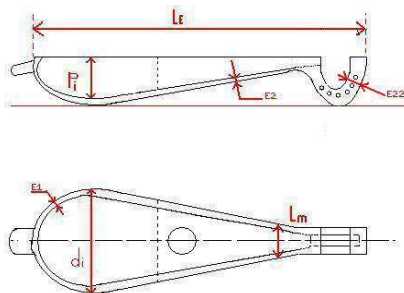
Item n°: 020

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : anonymous

Age / Year : supposedly circa 1950

Owner : Hasan AL-AJAMI



Diamètre D_i = 220 mm

L_e = 850 mm

L_m = mm

P_i = 100 mm

Observations : this rare item is one of the latest ancient instrument in a proper condition for playing. Originally, owner AL-AJAMI possibly inherited of his masters (Awni AL AJAMI or Ahmad FAYI). Main features of the lute are

- geometric purity in overall shape.
- a small carved rose.
- the mirror is an old style feature, possibly refurbished by maker AL QUTURI

(Photo archive)



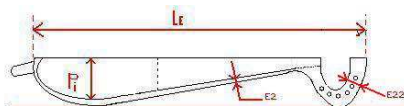
Item n°: 021

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : supposedly Fuad AL QUTURI

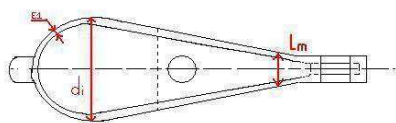
Age / Year : made june 2004

Owner : Jeff GREENE (NYC)



Diamètre Di = 180 mm

Le = 790/850 mm



Lm= mm

Pi= mm

Observations : No available data. This looks like another unseen production by AL QUTURI (eventually same production batch as item 003, 004, 2004). This is extensively decorated and, excepting the mirrorless pegbox head, very similar with item 002. 3 features suggest the lute might be an original recent yemeni production, rather than an hypothetical western replica:

- - old style –like copper plate in (soundboard, top)
- - black wood pattern
- - carved pegbox head is more reminiscent of some gambus of Riau island...

(Photo Jeff Greene blog)

Wood : presumably Tunub



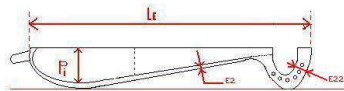
Item n°: 022

Name : Qanbus, Turbi

Age / Year : supposed early XXth century

Lute maker : anonymous

Owner : Metropolitan Museum, NYC, USA

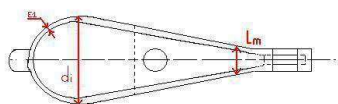


Diamètre Di = mm

Le = mm

Lm = mm

Pi < mm

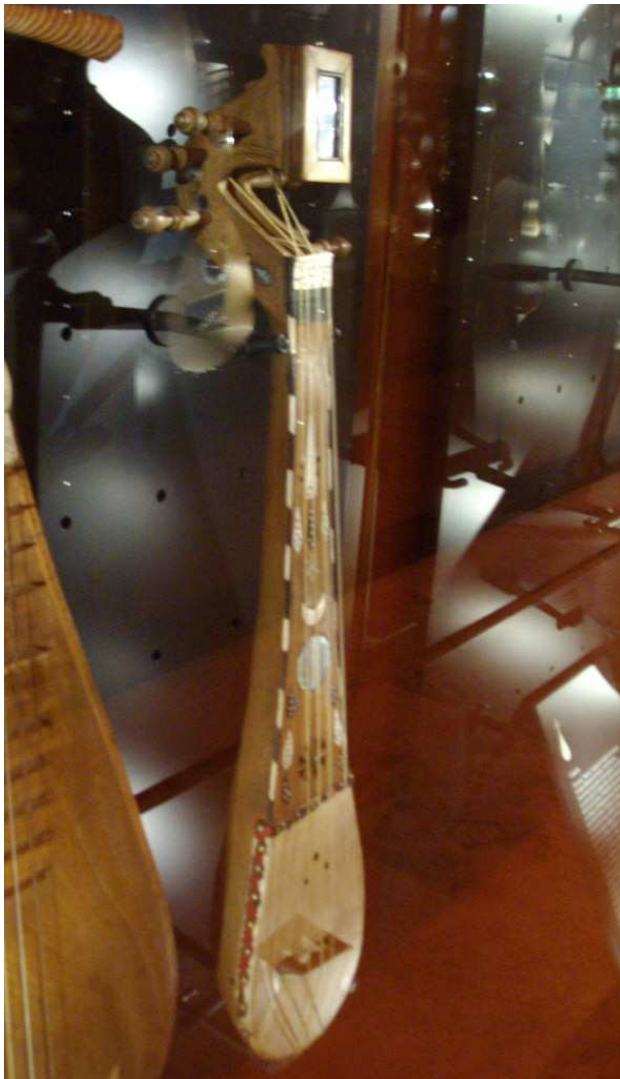


Observations : This ancient item is held by the Metropolitan Museum, and this is not reported as ever displayed . 5 pegs. Strings are missed.

The finishing art doesn't refer to any formerly known Yemeni item, but denies the alledged origin. The design, size and pegbox shape suggest an alternate source, which could be Swahili coast (see items 101, 104, 105) or Indonesia (see items 301, 302, 318, 319)

Wood : unknown.

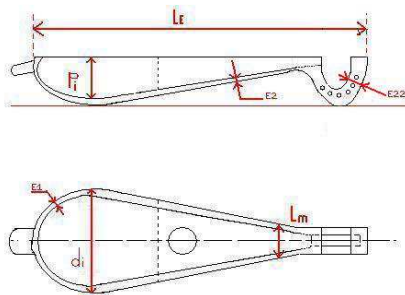
(Photo : courtesy of Metropolitan Museum Museum website, 2012)



Item n°: 023

Lute maker : unknown

Owner : Santa Cecilia (Roma)



Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Age / Year : turn of the 20th cent.

Diamètre Di = 180 mm

Le = 790/850 mm

Lm= 36 mm

Pi= 110 mm

Observations : Procurement conditions are unclear for two of such amazingly well preserved item, this one is now being exhibited in the Gallery of the Santa Cecilia auditorium, Roma . Various sound holes in skin-made soundboard and finger board.

Skin is not coloured, and the superb fingerboard features a mirror.

Wood : Tunub ?



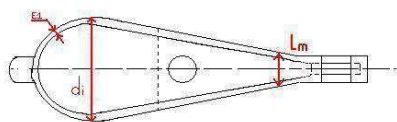
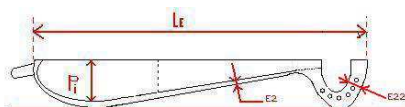
Item n°: 023

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : unknown

Age / Year : turn of the 20th cent.

Owner : Santa Cecilia (Roma)



Diamètre Di = 180 mm

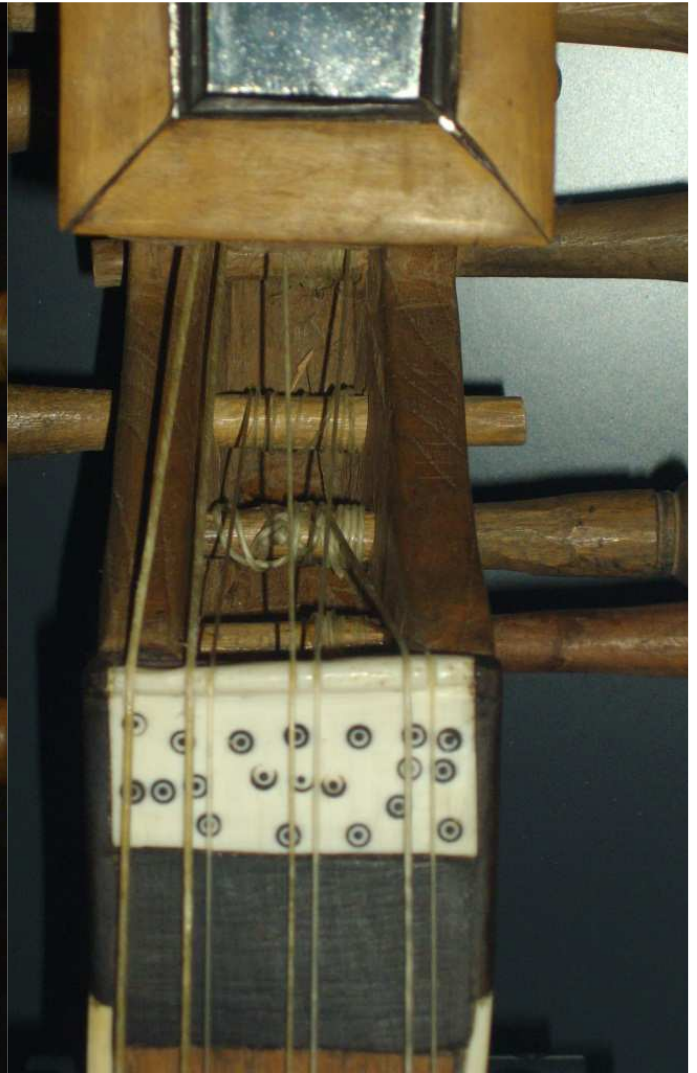
Le = 790/850 mm

Lm= 36 mm

Pi= 110 mm

Observations : Procurement conditions are unclear for two of such amazingly well preserved item, this one is now being exhibited in the Gallery of the Santa Cecilia auditorium, Roma . Various sound holes in skin-made soundboard and finger board. Skin is not coloured, and the superb fingerboard features a mirror. Photos: details of the neck.

Wood : Tunub ?



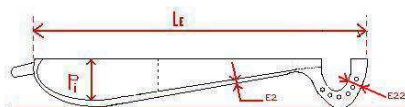
Item n°: 023

Name : Qanbus , (San'a, Yemen)

Lute maker : unknown

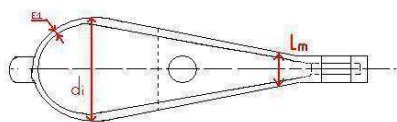
Age / Year : turn of the 20th cent.

Owner : Santa Cecilia (Roma)



Diamètre Di = 180 mm

Le = 790/850 mm

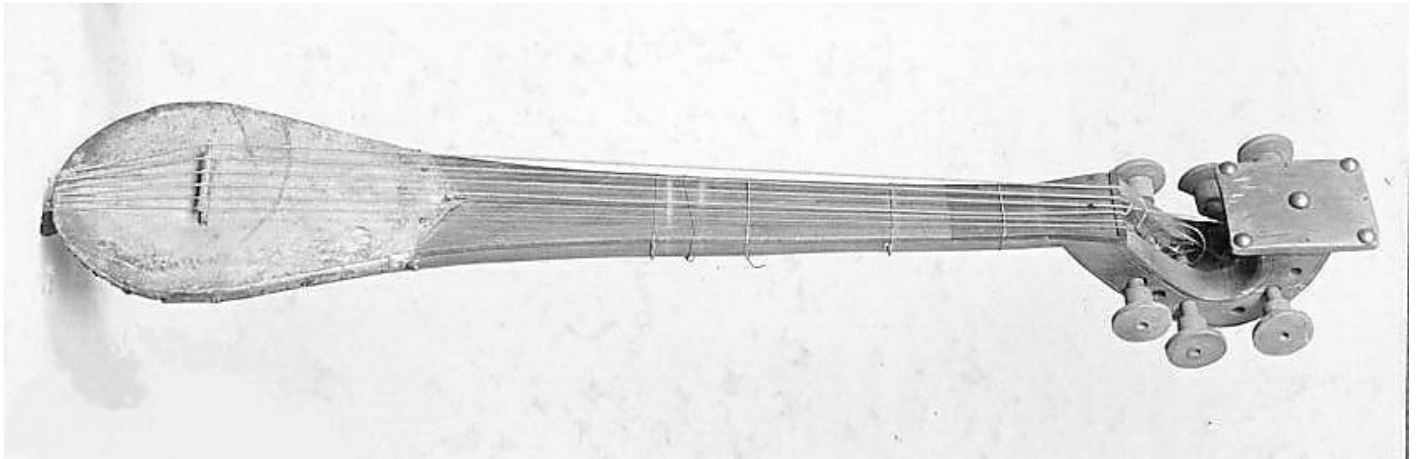


Lm= 36 mm

Pi= 110 mm

Observations : Procurement conditions are unclear for two of such amazingly well preserved item, this one is now being exhibited in the Gallery of the Santa Cecilia auditorium, Roma . Various sound holes in skin-made soundboard and finger board. Skin is not coloured, and the superb fingerboard features a mirror. Photos: pegbox from close

Wood : Tunub ?



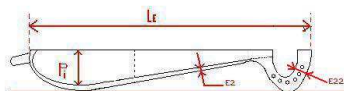
Item n°: 024

Name : Qanbus, Turbi (Hadramawt)

Age / Year : supposed early XXth century

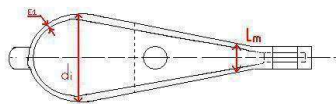
Lute maker : anonymous

Owner : Metropolitan Museum, NYC, USA



Diamètre Di = mm

Le = mm



Lm= mm

Pi < mm

Observations : This ancient item is held by the Metropolitan Museum, and this is not reported as ever displayed . 6 pegs& strings are missed. It is the only fretted item ever reported.

The mushroom-shape of the pegs was never observed before.

Wood : unknown.

(Photo : courtesy of Metropolitan Museum Museum website, 2010)

Read next chapters in the links below

http://inthegapbetween.free.fr/pierre/PORTFOLIO_part2.pdf

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http://inthegapbetween.free.fr/pierre/PORTFOLIO_part5.pdf

http://inthegapbetween.free.fr/pierre/PORTFOLIO_part6.pdf

http://inthegapbetween.free.fr/pierre/PORTFOLIO_part7.pdf