



Mattoon Drums and Percussion, LLC
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March 06, 2024
Appraised by: Chris Mattoon

Appraisal of Value

Instrument Manufacturer	C.G. Conn
Year of Manufacture	1902
Model	Band Wonder Drum
Size	8X16 inclusive of hoops (per catalog)
Finish	Brass, nickel plated trimmings
Serial Number / Interior Stamp	194

Historical Overview:

C.G. Conn was a large instrument manufacturer originating at the turn of the 19th century in Elkhart, Indiana. The bulk of their catalog at that time, called "C.G. Conn's Truth", was band and orchestral brass and woodwind instruments, with a small section devoted to percussion. Conn offered band and orchestra snare drums, bass drums, and even drum major's batons. The 1902 Conn catalog spends considerable time touting the advantages of the truss-type tuning mechanisms featured on the Wonder drums.

"The tension of the Wonder Drum is a great improvement over all others for the following reasons: Each right and left screw act directly upon two hooks on each hoop and consequently draws the head more evenly and with one half the number of turns required by the old style rods. The even straining of heads and the addition of twice the number of hooks gives the drum an increased volume of sound without the disagreeable flabby tone so common in other drums. It is light and graceful in appearance, while the improvements in construction add great strength and durability to its other superior qualities." The Conn Wonder Drum was billed as "The handsomest and richest tone drum made".

Condition and Observations:

Considering the age of this instrument, the drum is in remarkable condition. Original down to the snare wires, calf heads, and primitive drum key, this drum is well preserved and unmolested. The nickel plating from much of the steel truss mechanisms has worn over time, however the brass is bright and free of corrosion and staining. The original wooden counter

hoops are strong and largely undamaged from normal playing. The corrugated brass shell is round and free of large dents and scratches. The strainer mechanism works well and is unmodified. Included with the snare is the original leg rest and belt clip, fully intact and operational.

Appraised Value:

When it comes to instruments of this quality, age and condition drive value. Due to the instrument being over a century old, few surviving examples have surfaced in the last 10 years. In addition, even fewer are as complete and original as this snare. We have chosen to base the value off one other Conn Wonder Drum sold to a private collector in 2018 for \$1,200, the completeness of this drum, relative values of other drums of similar age from Conn (such as the perforated wonder snare and the orchestral wonder snare), and the condition. As such, the replacement or resale value of this instrument is placed at \$1,500.00.

(Appendix 1: photographs provided by owner)

(Appendix 2: Catalog)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Mattoon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Mattoon
Owner
Mattoon Drums and Percussion LLC