

# Elvis Presley



SIGNED AND PLAYED GUITAR

*M.S. Rau*  
FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS



**T**his extraordinary guitar was owned by Elvis Presley, the legend who changed music history forever. Please see photographs of his signed and played guitar.

In 1976, Elvis met Harold Wojdak in the parking lot of the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas. It was the surest place to find Presley during his ongoing residency, where he performed over 600 sold-out shows. Presley and Wojdak had been friends for nearly two decades, first meeting in Germany in 1959 while Elvis was stationed there, and forming a close bond.

One day, to lift his friend's spirits, Elvis brought a surprise in the trunk of his car—this very guitar. As he took it out, he remarked, "I know the guitar still plays, but I don't know if I can still play," then performed "That's All Right" right there in the parking lot.

When he finished, he signed the guitar and handed it over, saying, "Now you can stop playing around and

learn to play my guitar. It brought me good luck. Maybe it will work for you." Instruments touched by the King of Rock and Roll himself are exceptionally rare; one both played and signed by him, and considered lucky in his own words, is extraordinary. This guitar's significance was recognized by Sotheby's, which selected it for the cover of its 1995 catalog. You can read Sotheby's write-up below. The instrument is a 1950s classical nylon-string guitar, with its richly finished body, black trim and Presley's bold "Elvis" signature. Please review the accompanying letters of authenticity.

Elvis Presley's guitars are some of the most coveted among music memorabilia, particularly examples with strong provenance and signatures. Comparable Presley guitars have achieved exceptional auction results, including the 1950s "Sun Sessions" Martin D-18, which sold for \$1.2 million in 2020.





## Elvis Presley

Classical nylon-string guitar, 1950s

Serial number GS-50

Signed "Elvis" on body

This work is accompanied by its certificate of authenticity issued by Graceland Records dated September 20, 1995 and Unique Images.

## PROVENANCE

Private collection of the Wojdak family, Canada

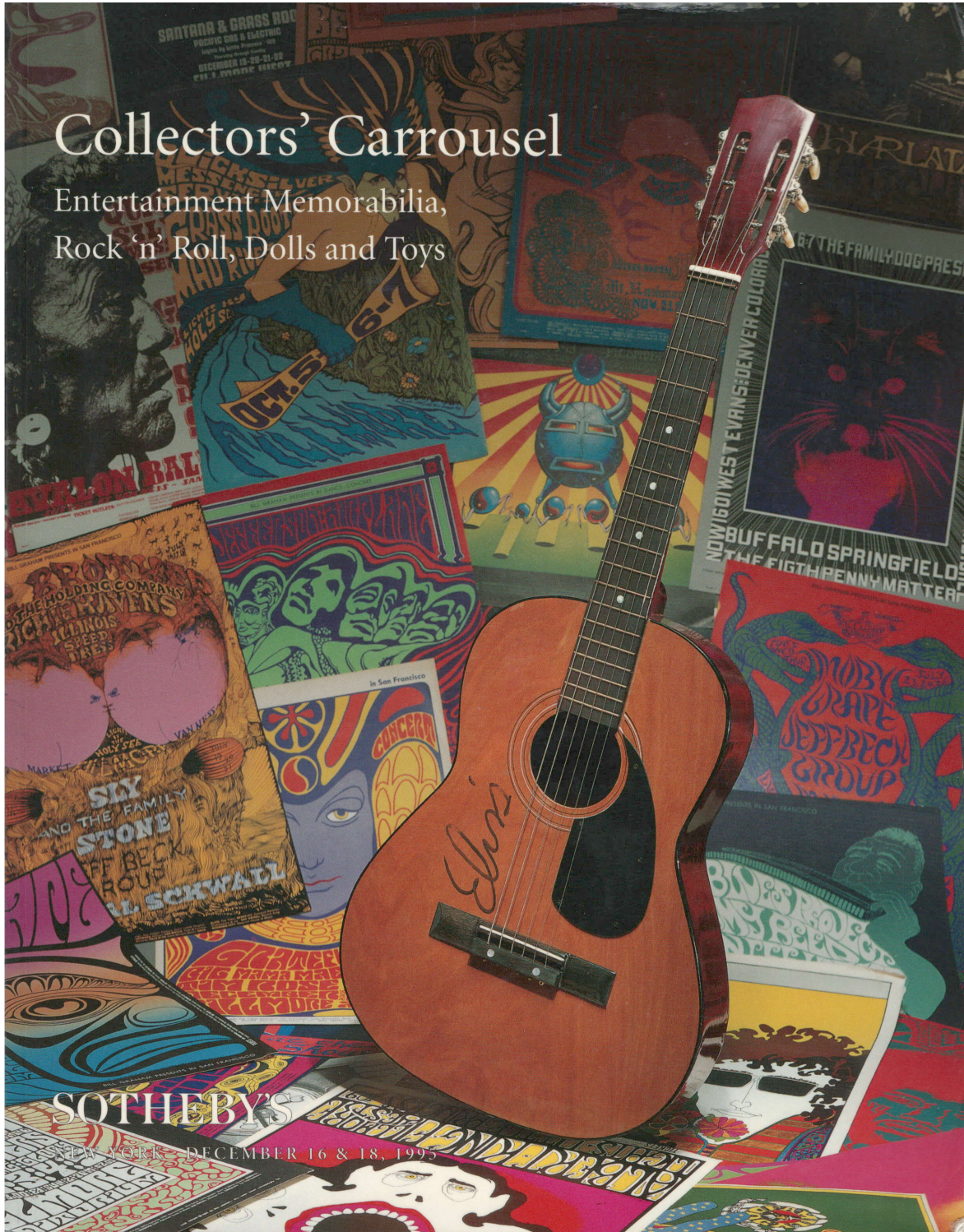
Private collection, California, by descent from above

Sale: Sotheby's, New York, 1995

Private collection

M.S. Rau, New Orleans





Sotheby's, New York. December 16 & 18, 1995. *Collectors' Carrousel: Entertainment Memorabilia, Rock 'n' Roll, Dolls and Toys.* Cover & lot 195.





195

□195

**Early Elvis Presley Owned and Played Guitar, 1950's**, the richly finished acoustic guitar marked, GS-50, is trimmed in black and is boldly signed *Elvis* in black marker on the body.

The consignor originally met Elvis in Germany in 1959 when visiting his stepmother's cousin who was stationed there. Their friendship spanned from 1959 on, and throughout the years, Elvis bestowed many gifts upon his friend. This particular guitar was given by Elvis to the consignor behind the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas, August, 1976. The consignor had spoken to Elvis a few weeks before he was going to visit his doctor for a back related issue (who was also Elvis' and was located at the Hilton), whereupon Elvis immediately said he would meet him and that had a surprise for him. After the doctor's appointment, Elvis met the consignor in the parking lot. When taking the guitar out of his trunk, he accidentally knocked the guitar. Once Elvis examined the guitar he is reported to have said, *I know the guitar still plays, but I don't know if I can still play. Let's see what I can do!* With that, Elvis began to play "That's Alright Mama." When he finished he handed the guitar to the consignor and said *Now you can stop playing around and learn to play my guitar. It brought me good luck, maybe it will work for you!* Elvis then signed the guitar in bold black marker. The guitar comes with a letter of provenance as well as a letter of authenticity for *Graceland Records*. The guitar is also accompanied by a copy of a picture of Elvis and Liberace from 1956 which shows Elvis holding a similar if not the actual guitar.

\$55,000-65,000

Sotheby's, New York. December 16 & 18, 1995. *Collectors' Carrousel: Entertainment Memorabilia, Rock 'n' Roll, Dolls and Toys*. Cover & lot 195.





Elvis photographed with what is very likely this guitar on November 28, 1958, at the U.S. Army Training Area in Grafenwoehr, Germany.



# CERTIFICATIONS



## Graceland Records

Joe Carter  
Owner  
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Holiday, FL 34690 USA


Telephone (813)942-1935 & 942-6228  
Fax (813)942-1935

To Whom: it May concern

After Examining this Guitar with Elvis Presley's signature on it, I Find it to Be Authentic and Signed By the Hand of Elvis Presley.

I Have been a Fan and Collector for almost 30 years and Owner Operator of My company, Graceland Records for 12. I Have been on Radio, TV, and several Newspapers on The subject of Authenticating Elvis Presley Collectables. Over the past 12 years I have also been involved with Various Elvis Fan clubs, doing their Auctions for Various Charities. I Do several Fan Club Conventions all over the northeast and the south.

I have received 4 Awards in the last 5 Years and was named 1 of the top 10 Dealers in The country by LFP Magazine. I am Considered an Expert in my Field, and have an Excellent Reputation for Quality and Service to My Customers.

Signed  This Day The 20th of Sept. 1995.  
Owner,  
Graceland Records

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Certificate of authenticity issued by Joe Carter of Graceland Records dated September 20, 1995





## Elvis Presley's "Sun Sessions" Martin D-18 sells for record \$1.32m at auction

**News** By [Richard Bienstock](#) published August 5, 2020

The historic instrument was the King's main acoustic in the studio and onstage in the mid 1950s



(Image credit: Gotta Have Rock and Roll)



The "Sun Sessions" C. F. Martin & Company D-18, 1942. Owned and played by Elvis Presley from 1954–1956. Sold in 2020 for \$1.2 million (\$1.32 million including buyer's premium).



## Elvis' Gibson J200

1956



Graceland  
Memphis, Tennessee



## Elvis' Martin D-35 acoustic guitar

1975



National Music Museum  
*Vermillion, South Dakota*



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