

## Francisco Simplicio 1931 No. 343?

Just recently, a guitar with this label was offered at „Galerie des Luthiers“ in Lyon (France). The instrument leads to some irritations, and the following text will try to explain the situation.

First of all, the guitar is an absolutely original FS – instrument, made in the last year of his life as a „guitarrero“ (he unexpectedly died on January, 14th, 1932).

The decorative elements (shape of the head, rosette, bridge) are similar to the FS 1931, No.327 (see Milanese / Piazza: Francisco Simplicio Luthier, Edizioni Il Dialogo, Milano 2010, page 255).

As far as we know today, the last guitar signed and numbered by FS himself, was the No. 336 from 1931. From on 1932, the numbering was continued and signed by Miguel Simplicio, up to No.342. As FS and MS always worked together (1923 – 1931) there must have been at least 6 unfinished instruments when FS had passed away. Miguel Simplicio thus continued his father's numbering up to the 342 of 1932 – the last known guitar made by both luthiers. As an example, No.338 from 1932, signed now by MS, is described in Alberto Martínez' edition „Classical Guitars in Life Size“ (Camino Verde, Paris 2018), and No.342 can be seen in the Milanese / Piazza book, on page 258.

The „343“ does not correspond to 1931 and the autograph of Francisco – how could this be explained? A possible solution is the „turning of the last digit“. This means, that FS wanted to write 334 – and wrote 343. This very often happens on bank transfers. And this would also explain, that since today no FS 334 came to light!

These few lines should not be more than a possible explanation, as long as no No.334 will be discovered!

Karlstein, January 8th, 2023

Siegfried „Hogi“ Hogenmüller

**Francisco Simplicio 1931, No. 343 (?)**







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