

Early synthetic gut strings, a query

Recently I acquired a violin (probably Mirecourt made) imported by Norman Duke c 1880. In the case were various spare strings. One is particularly interesting. The packet has printed on it:

Violin D or 3rd
Synthetic gut
1 length
No.603

for
SWEETER TONE
FULLER VOLUME

SUMMIT string
British Music and tennis strings Ltd. London

A couple of notes in the instrument case are dated to 1962. The packet appears to me mid 20th century in design, art work and is, I suggest, from from the 1950/60s. The string in the packet is about 0.92mm, gut coloured, quite stiff, slightly rough surface but with no sign of twisting as in gut strings of this diameter.

I had thought synthetic gut music strings were a more recent invention (Eph Segerman of NRI offered some called 'gutlon' in the 1980s I think and, of course, Peruffo or Aqlia Strings currently with his Nylgut). Has anyone come across these particular sort of earlier synthetic string? And I wonder what became of them.

From the site below it seems the company lasted to the 1950s. See:

<http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/British> Music and Tennis Strings

It also seems that a different company, but using a similar name was established in the 1960s. See

<http://www.guitar-list.com/brands/british-music-strings-limited>

The material might just possibly be 'acribelle' which I believe was a silk string impregnated with glue to stiffen it. (see Goodwin's article In March 2003 EMP below). But because I've never seen such silk strings I don't actually know if this is the case here.

<http://www.earlymusic.info/performer/EMO11-1.pdf>

Any information would be welcomed!