



OBJECT ID	1998.5.3
OBJECT NAME	Zither
DATE CREATED	1900
MATERIAL	Metal; Wood
OBJECT ENTITIES	US Guitar Zither, Menzenhauers Guitar Zither (created by) Mezenhauer, (created by) Harry Boolookas, father of donor (owned by) Boolookas, Georgia (is related to)
RELATED ITEMS	Tablecloth, 1998.5.1 Tray, 1998.5.2 Case, Photograph, 1998.5.5a Case, Photograph, 1998.5.5b
ACCESS POINTS	Menzenhauers Wood Zither

#### OBJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a zither; a shallow wooden box with a circular opening in the center used for making music. The box is a red-brown mahogany color and has metal strings stretched lengthwise across its face. Each of the strings is fastened at the top with a tiny knob. In the upper left-hand corner, there is a gold logo with an oval-shaped depiction of Niagara Falls above it. The center hole is decorated with a gold painted embellishment.

that includes an artistic arrangement of geometric patterns and neo-classical ribbons and leaves. At the bottom, there is a horizontal gold-painted bar with string names and/or chords under each of the appropriate string(s).

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#### ORIGIN

In September 1895 Friederich Menzenhauer (father of guitar-zither) was granted the first patent for a "Meetallophone Zither." At the end of 1896 his company Mezenhauer Guitar Zither Co leased a two story tin roofed building in Jersey City. In 1897 recieved a patent for a "Harp Cithern."

This one belonged to Georgia's father Harry J Boolookas who arrived in the US in 1902.

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#### CITATION

Zither, 1900, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 04/18/24.

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