EVEN A BEGINNER CAN MAKE MUSIC ON ONE

To the Bag:

I just received the wonderful Philanthropical Cricket in Edinburgh (and now really don’t have much to look forward to receiving as the gift season approaches). Thank you! I read all the Sherlock Holmes stories during an intersession break in college, after my favorite professor, having made an obscure reference to a Sherlock Holmes story (not like a “dog that didn’t bark” reference) expressed disappointment that everyone in his class didn’t know the canon. I didn’t want to disappoint again, and am glad he didn’t make a reference to a line from the Field Bazaar, because I don’t remember the Field Bazaar. Say, maybe he did make a reference after that, and it just went right by me.

In any event, the map (for lack of a better word) is terrific. The trees of Cremona line reminds me of the old story about the store signs on a street in Cremona: Amati’s said “Best Violins in the World”; Stradivari’s said, “Best Violins in Italy”; Guarnari’s said, “Best Violins on this Street.”
That story was told to me by a violinist, and when I asked whether the Stradivariuses were the best, he looked at me like I’d just fallen off the turnip truck and replied, Strads are beautiful and easy to play, even a beginner can make music on one; Guarnaris are hard and take time to learn, but when you learn to play one, she can sing like nothing else can.

Adam Sachs
Folger Levin LLP
San Francisco, CA

The house of Stradivari.
Horace Petherick, Antonio Stradivari 4 (1900).