

## Certificate of Authenticity


Cue Maker: Frank Paradise

Model: Willie Mosconi / Mickey Mantle  
Presentation cue


Cue Specifications: overall length: 57"    shaft length: 28 ½"    butt length: 28 ½"  
weight: 20.5 oz.    shaft weight: 3.8 oz.    butt weight: 16.7 oz.  
wrap: 12 ¾" tri-color featuring gold-tone and black nylon wrap

Cue Condition: Overall condition is good. Shaft condition is original and has developed nicely aged patina. The ring work is in very good condition. There is a slight warp and the shaft is still playable. There is evidence of some shading due to longevity of storage in a soft case. The butt condition is also good. The original finish is streaky and runny which was hand applied. It is in very good condition considering the age of the cue. The joint is tarnished from normal age. The ring work in the back end is uneven due to natural age process and chances are they were uneven at the time of construction.

Cue Evaluation / Appraisal: This is to certify that it is my professional opinion that the referenced/described cue is an authentic all original cue built by Frank Paradise at the request of Willie Mosconi to be presented to Mickey Mantle. Current market value; minimum \$12,000.00 - \$15,000.00 (U.S. dollars)

  
2-1-07  
Mark Kulungian, President  
"Q" Lungian Enterprises, Inc.  
Billiard Cue Appraiser and Curator

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this  
1<sup>ST</sup> day of FEBRUARY 2007

  
Notary Public

EDWARD J. PALOMBA  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES May 31, 2010





February 6, 2007

Dear Mr Ramos,

Based upon my inspection and evaluation of your cue, I believe it to be an all-original Frank Paradise cue. Judging from the materials and design, Frank built this cue sometime during the early to mid 1950's. This particular cue has tremendous historical value because Frank was one of the greatest cue makers, Willie Mosconi was the greatest pocket billiards player, and Mickey Mantle was one of the greatest baseball players. Willie Mosconi, who is often referred to as the best pocket billiard player of all-time, was good friends with Frank Paradise and would request Frank to build cues as gifts from Willie. Your cue is one that Willie gave to Mickey Mantle as a gift.

Both names are "gold-stamped" on foil protected beneath a clear plastic window. (Fig. 4a, 4b, 4c). The tip, ferrule, ferrule screw, and shaft insert are all indicative of Franks' work. (Fig. 6 & 7). The screw-off style ferrule and tip was one of Franks' trademark features. The joint, joint screw, shaft collars, and brass shaft insert are all the correct materials and dimensions (Fig. 5, 8, 9 ).

The butt end of this cue is referred to as a Titlist conversion. It is a rosewood four-prong with four colored veneers (Fig. 3). The wrap material is nylon divided into three sections: the center section is gold with black above and below ( Fig. 1 & 2). The backend of this cue features a clear plastic window with the names Willie Mosconi and Mickey Mantle gold-embossed onto foil in a rare fancy style script lettering. This particular font style is indicative of Franks' early work and confirms the era when he built this cue. There is a set of three swirl rings above and below the clear window. The size, color, and dimensions are true and accurate of Franks' work. The butt cap and socket screw are original ( Fig. 10 ).



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The overall dimensions of this cue are: 57" length, 20.5 oz. weight with shaft length 28.5" weighing 3.8 oz. and a 13mm diameter. The butt is 28.5" length and weights 16.7 oz.

The overall condition of this cue is good ( 75 - 85%). The shaft has all original materials and the ring work is in very good condition. There is a minor warp in the shaft, which is acceptable considering the age and will not affect playability. The shading on the shaft is due to fluctuating climactic conditions and storage longevity.

The butt is in good sound condition. The original hand applied finish explains the finish streaks above the prongs in the forearm and has formed a nice patina over the years. There is a slight warp in the cue but is still very playable. Some shading is evident due to storage over the last forty plus years. A small piece of wood has chipped out inside one of the rosewood prongs.

The joint has tarnished from normal wear and aging. Franks' signature ring work in the backend is in very good condition. The clear window shows some cloudiness and stains from normal age. At the time this cue was built, it was considered a fancy cue.

Based upon all these facts and comparisons to other Frank Paradise cues, I appraise this cue at a minimum value of \$12,000.00 - \$15,000.00 (U.S. dollars).

If I can be of further service, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

Mark Kulungian

**BRADLEY W. SIMPSON**

132 S Seminary St  
Galesburg, Illinois 61401

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**Letter of Appraisal: Frank Paradise Presentation Cue (Circa 1960)**

**Length: 57"**

**Joint: Piloted Brass**

**Forearm: & Points: 4 Full Spliced Rosewood Points into Maple (Titlist Blank)**

**Handle: Two Color Silk Wrap, Appears Original (Typical Frank Paradise Wrap)**

**Butt Sleeve: Colored Catalin Rings, with "From Willie Mosconi to Mickey Mantle" under a clear Lucite window.**

**Condition: Appears 85% Condition, Totally Original**

**Estimated Value: \$10,000 to \$15,000**

April 4, 2006

George Ramos  
20 Lillian Drive  
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977

Mr. Ramos:

Thank you for requesting a letter of appraisal for your old Frank Paradise cue. Although I have not handled your cue, I have looked at the pictures sent to me. The cue appears to be a genuine Frank Paradise cue in original condition. Frank was a very important custom cuemaker.

The most interesting thing about your cue is the inscription under the clear Lucite window in the butt sleeve. Willie Mosconi must have had Frank Paradise make this cue for the purpose of presenting it to Mickey Mantle. Frank Paradise was the most famous custom cuemaker on the east coast at the time, and he made other cues for celebrities. Willie Mosconi was the greatest pool player at the time, and he was known to present cues to special people. Mickey Mantle was the most famous baseball player at the time. The inscription appears to be totally original.

I would have to see your cue in person to know more. I would estimate a fair value of \$10,000 to \$15,000 in today's market. Frank Paradise cues are worth thousands of dollars without historical inscriptions. This is one of the most important inscriptions I have seen, with less important inscribed cues selling for over \$10,000. This is a very rare and desirable one of a kind cue, and it is possible a collector would pay more to get it.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

*Brad Simpson 04/04/06*

Brad Simpson, Author: Blue Book of Pool Cues I, II, & III



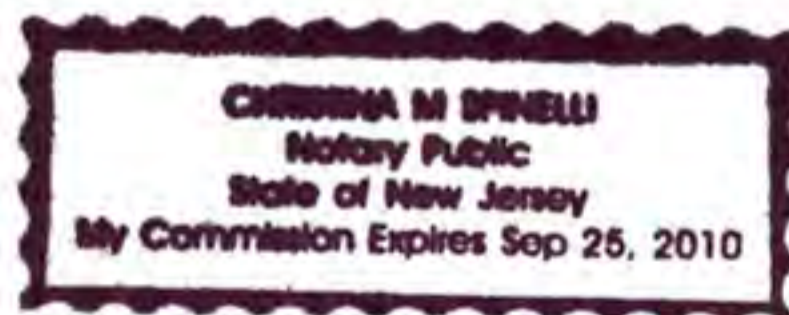


**William F. Mosconi**

October 25, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

Mickey Mantle and Willie Mosconi were friends and even worked together from time to time at national sports shows in the early years. They also worked as celebrity hosts in an Atlantic City casino at the same time. My dad often gave cue sticks as gifts to friends and celebrities. Noted cue stick makers, such as Frank Paradise usually customized their cues when my father requested. While I do not know of every cue my dad presented, I am aware that cues were made and given to Frank Sinatra, Jackie Gleason, and Fred Astaire. I also was present when my dad presented the then manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, Walter Alston, with a cue stick back around 1956. If your cue can be definitely identified as an original Frank Paradise cue from the period, then I would say it is more than likely an original presentation cue from Willie Mosconi to Mickey Mantle.



*Christina Spinelli*

Sincerely,

William F. Mosconi