

Willem Beukers Senior (Utrecht 1666 - Amsterdam 1750) and Willem Beukers Junior (Amsterdam 1703-1781)

Maker's marks:

W. Beukers' stamps raise the question of which are the father's and which are those of his son of the same name. There are a few differences between the makers' names and workshop stamps, but sometimes the distinctions are subtle, and only apparent on direct comparison.

All Beukers instruments are stamped W:BEUKERS in a flat curve without a scroll. The last letter ('S') is a sometimes little blurred, looking more like an 'X' or an 'N'. The size and curvature of the lettering are not identical in all the stamps, but the differences are slight. More important are the variations in the symbols above or below the name stamp: a fleur de lis (low type), a crown, a deer, a clover leaf.

a- The first group of instruments (such as recorders 2 and 4, traverso 10) has a low and relatively wide fleur de lis like those stamped below Richard Haka's and Coenraad Rijkel's marks (type a1). On oboe no. 14 does the fleur de lis differ, being taller and in the form of a little crab; above the name a leaping deer, as on the instruments by Van Aardenberg, (a2).

b- In the second group of instruments (recorder 7a, and 9) the fleur de lis has been replaced by a crown stamped above the name; the crown is relatively large, with a distinctive design, its three points outlined by a fringe-like contour (type b1).

The traverso no. 11 has a crown above the name as well as a clover leaf below the maker's mark (b2); oboe 16 has a crown and a fleur de lis, stamped over partially erased mark (in a scroll) by an unknown (Dutch?) maker.



type a1-



type b1-

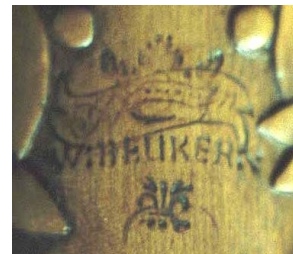


type b2-



type a2-

stamp on oboe 16



List of instruments

- 1- 3-piece soprano recorder in d2 (sixth flute), ivory (with decorative turnery)
Library of Congress, Washington D.C., no. 257/5
- 2- 2-piece soprano recorder in c2, brown-stained European boxwood
Collection Boers, Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, no. BK-NM-11430-87
from 1952 to 2010 on loan to Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 25-x-1952
- 3- 2-piece soprano recorder in c2, brown-stained European boxwood
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 278-1933
- 4- 2-piece soprano recorder in c2, brown-stained European boxwood
(ex Gerrit Vellekoop), private collection USA (*no information about present location*)
- 5- 3-piece alto recorder in f1, in brown-stained European boxwood
Collection Boers, Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, no. BK-NM-11430-96
from 1952 to 2010 on loan Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 26-x-1952
- 6- 3-piece alto recorder in f1, brown-stained European boxwood, foot by T. Boekhout
private collection, Laren, Netherlands (*no recent information about this instrument*)
- 7- foot of a 3-piece alto recorder in f1, unstained European boxwood, no stamp
Musikinstrumentenmuseum, Berlin, no. 2792
- 7a- 3-piece alto recorder in f1, in brown-stained European boxwood
private collection, Schoonebeek, Netherlands (*information 2012*)
- 8- 3-piece tenor recorder in d1 (voice flute), brown-stained European boxwood
private collection, Utrecht, Netherlands (*this instrument has been stolen, some years ago*)
- 9- 3-piece tenor recorder in d1 (voice flute), brown-stained European boxwood private
collection, Driebergen, Netherlands (*no recent information about this instrument*)
- 10- 4-piece traverso in d1, ivory with three corps de rechange and a silver key
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 414-1933
- 11- 4-piece traverso in d1, brown-stained European boxwood, ivory rings, three corps de
rechange and silver key
collection Foundation Ehrenfeld, Bussum, Netherlands
- 12- oboe in c1, brown-stained European boxwood, silver keys with the date, 1704
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 1017-1933
- 13- oboe in c1, European boxwood, brass keys
Rijksmuseum Amsterdam (not in Boers Collection)
from 1952 to 2010 on loan to Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 10-x-1952
- 14- oboe in c1, European boxwood, brass keys
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 1-1978
- 15- oboe in c1, European boxwood, brass keys, bell not original
collection Han de Vries, Amsterdam
- 16- oboe in c1, European boxwood, carved, ivory rings, silver keys; Beuker's stamp over
another (unknown) maker's illegible stamp
Victoria & Albert Museum, London, no. 808/69

Historical reports of instruments by W. Beukers

Several of Beukers' instruments are listed in inventories and catalogues of historical auctions; the most noteworthy examples are cited below. The collection of music-dealer Nicolas Selhof, auctioned at The Hague in 1759, included a *Flute de quart de 'Beukern'*. Could it really have been a so-called 'fourth flute', a soprano or tenor recorder in b-flat? No such instruments by Dutch makers survive. It would not come as a surprise to learn that Beukers (the name ending with an 's', not an 'n') was the maker, for the last letter on a name-stamp is occasionally difficult to read.

In the inventory of the estate of the composer Pietro Antonio Locatelli, who worked and died in Amsterdam, was the only wind instrument listed among a number of other types as an *extra fraaije Dwarsfluit met een zilvere klep, waaraan ook een Fluit d'Amour, bestaande in tien stukken en twee aanvoegstukjes, gemaakt door Willem Beukers te Amsterdam* (an exceedingly handsome traverso with a silver key 'on which' also a flûte d'amour, consisting of ten parts and two extension pieces (corps de rechange?) made by Willem Beukers of Amsterdam).

In 1801 the estate of the Amsterdam organist Bartholomeus Rulofs was auctioned. Listed under no. 98 of the musicq instrumenten were: *1 ditto (clarinet) met C, B, A en D verzetstukken en 2 kopstukken, door Beukers* (1 ditto (clarinet) with C, B, A and D corps de rechange and 2 heads, by Beukers). In the absence of an initial we must however entertain the possibility that the makers' names Beuker and Beukers were confused. Similar confusion surrounds a *witte yvoore fluit* (white ivory flute), sold in 1804 at The Hague and said to have been made by *Beukers te Amst.*; the lack of an initial or first name and the addition of Amsterdam (usually found on Beuker's instruments and never on those of W. Beukers) cast doubts on this inform.

Other interesting references to instruments are found in the catalogue of a sale held in Utrecht in 1759, when *twee dwarsfluiten, een hautbois and a chalumeau* (two traversos, an oboe and a shawm) by Beuckers were on offer. In 1774, in 's-Hertogenbosch was a *fluit à bec* and in 1787 at The Hague *twee fluyten does van W. Beukers te Amsterdam 1763, palmhout* (two recorders by W. Beukers at Amsterdam 1763, boxwood).

In 1828 a *zuiver toongevende palmhoute fluit, gemaakt door W. Beukers* (pure-sounding boxwood flute, made by W. Beukers) was sold in Amsterdam. This fluit was probably a traverso and the same may be true of an instrument in Willem Mengelberg's estate, auctioned in 1952. The instrument in question is a flute in a case, marked W. Beukers,