

Michiel Parent (Amsterdam 1663 - Amsterdam 1710)

Maker's marks:

Parent's stamp is difficult to decipher on all his surviving instruments, sometimes so very difficult that it is still not certain whether he used only the surname PARENT or, what is more likely, M. PARENT. The stamp is almost impossible to read, not only on the rounded surface of his ebony recorder no. 1, but also on the double recorders made of boxwood, which is flatter and easier to stamp. Two double recorders (nos. 6 and 7) are not classified in their collections as being made by Parent, but are recognized as such by me (no. 6) and Rob van Acht (no. 7)

The name is in a scroll, with a traditional (high) fleur de lis above (1-) or above and below the name (2- en 5-).



Parent 1-



Parent 2-



Parent 5-

List of instruments

- 1- 3-piece alto recorder in f1, ebony with ivory rings
Museum of Musical Instruments, St. Petersburg, no. 403
- 2- double recorder, European boxwood
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 82-x-1952
- 3- double recorder, European boxwood
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 4-1984
- 4- double recorder, European boxwood
Musikinstrumentenmuseum, Berlin, no. 2832
- 5- double recorder, European boxwood
Musikinstrumentenmuseum, Berlin, no. 2833
- 6* double recorder
Historisk Museum, University of Bergen, Norway, no. X 125.85 or B 3457
- 7- double recorder, European boxwood
Gruuthusemuseum, Brugge, Belgium, no. M35
- 8* double recorder, European boxwood
sold at Sotheby's London, November 22 1984

Historical reports of instruments by Parent

A wide variety of woodwind instruments appeared in two advertisements placed by Parent in the *Amsterdamsche Courant* and in other advertisements placed by his widow when he died: *accoorden, Bassons, en Alten, en Hobois, Fluyt-does, en Diskante, Octaven, en Fraseletten, dubbele Fluyten, en Fluytstokken* (chord recorders, bassoons, altos, oboes, flûtes douces, discants, octaves, flageolets, double recorders and walking-stick recorders).

The sale catalogue of the collection of Michiel van Bolhuis of Groningen lists a *dubbele Ters stemmende Fluit a bec* (double third-recorder) by Michiel Parent. This instrument went for

two guilders, which was actually quite a high price in view of the fact that several 'normal' flutes and oboes did not fetch even double that amount at this auction.

Another *dubbelde fluyt met twee toonen door N. Parentz* ('double two-tone recorder' by N. Parent) was auctioned at The Hague in 1740. Evidence that Parent made other instruments is found in the catalogue of an Amsterdam sale held in 1728: a *grote fluyt van M. Parent* (a large flute - or recorder - by M. Parent) and a *kleinder dito van de zelve* (smaller ditto by the same).