

Hendrik Richters (Amsterdam 1683 - 1727), Fredrik-I Richters (Amsterdam 1694-1770) and Fredrik-II Richters (no dates)

Maker's marks:

There is a strong family resemblance between the stamps used by Hendrik and Fredrik-I Richters: H.RICHTERS and F.RICHTERS, curved, and not in scrolls. Only oboes by these brothers have survived, but there is a possibility that they have also made other types of woodwind instruments. Fredrik-II Richters was a nephew who has worked in the workshop(s) of his uncles Hendrik and Fredrik-I.

Many of the stamps on ebony Richters oboes are somewhat indistinct, making it hard to tell whether there is a full-stop between their respective initials and surnames. On the best impressions, though, the full-stop is quite distinctly centred at half-letter height. Below the name is a clover leaf; the short stalk on Hendrik Richters' oboes clearly bends to the left, Fredrik Richters' slightly longer stalk describes a smaller curve to the right.

There are however two exceptions to the aforementioned stamps. On Hendrik Richters' only tenor oboe (no. 30) the name H.RICHTERS is placed in a scroll, without a clover leaf or other marks. The other exception is F.Richters' oboe no. 2: stamped between the maker's name and the clover leaf are the letters IS. It is not clear which of the oboes F.Richters were made and stamped by Fredrik-I or Fredrik-II.



H. Richters 13-



H. Richters 9-



H. Richters 30-



F. Richters 1-



F. Richters 2-

## List of instruments

### Oboes stamped H.RICHTERS

- HR1- oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery, engraved silver keys  
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 286-1933
- HR2- oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery, engraved silver keys;  
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 436-1933
- HR3- oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery, engraved silver keys  
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 584-1933
- HR4- oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery, engraved silver keys  
Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, Boers Collection no. BK-NM-11430-85  
from 1952 to 2010 on loan to Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 7-x-1952

- HR5- oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery, keys missing  
Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, Boers Collection no. BK-NM-11430-79  
from 1952 to 2010 on loan to Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 8-x-1952
- HR6- oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery, engraved silver keys  
Rijksmuseum Amsterdam no. ? *There is confusion about the inventory number in the files of the Boers Collection, the corresponding instrument being a lute.*  
from 1952 to 2010 on loan to Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 15-x-1952
- HR7- oboe in c1, ebony, plain ivory rings and unengraved silver keys;  
Rijksmuseum Amsterdam no. ? (not in the Boers Collection)  
from 1952 to 2010 on loan Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 17-x-1952
- HR8- oboe in c1, ebony with silver mountings and engraved silver keys  
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 284-1933
- HR9- oboe in c1, European boxwood (perhaps unstained), silver bead(s) and brass keys  
from 1996 to 2012 on loan to Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 1-x-1996  
*no information about present location*
- HR10- oboe in c1, ebony with ivory turnery and silver keys; silver repair band in bell  
Beethoven Archive, Bonn, Germany, no. Zimm. 93
- HR11- oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery, engraved silver keys  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Ma, no. 1985.705
- HR12- oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery, engraved silver keys  
MIM Brussel, no.1981
- HR13- oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery and engraved silver keys  
private collection, London (*no recent information about this instrument*)
- HR14- oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery and engraved silver keys  
private collection (Han de Vries), Amsterdam
- HR15\* oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery and engraved silver keys  
ex-Michel Piguet, Switzerland; private collection, Boston Ma. (*no recent information about this instrument*)
- HR16- oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery and engraved silver keys  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, no. 53.56.11
- HR17- oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery and engraved silver keys  
Bate Collection, Oxford, no. 2037
- HR18- oboe in c1, European boxwood with an ivory ring, silver band and engraved silver keys  
Bate Collection, Oxford, no. 2040
- HR19\* oboe in c1  
private collection, Tokyo (*no recent information about this instrument*)
- HR20- oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery and engraved silver keys  
National Music Museum (ex-America's Shrine to Music Museum), Vermillion SD,  
U.S.A. no. 4547
- HR21- oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery and engraved silver keys  
Library of Congress, Washington DC, no. 158
- HR22\*- oboe in c1  
private collection, New Paltz NY, U.S.A. (*no recent information about this instrument*)
- HR23- oboe in c1, ebony with silver mountings  
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, no. 653
- HR24- oboe in c1, European boxwood brass keys, bell by P. Borkens  
Horniman Museum, London, no. 14-5-47/120
- HR25- oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery and engraved silver keys  
private collection, Grouw, Netherlands (*no recent information about this instrument*)

- HR26\*- oboe in c1, European boxwood  
private collection (Andreas Glatt), Antwerpen, Belgium (*no recent information about this instrument*)
- HR27- oboe in c1, European boxwood  
Museum Vosbergen, Eelde, Netherlands (ex Drents Museum, Assen, inv. no. H1911-2a)
- HR28- oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery, brass keys  
in 1997 in the collection of the London antique dealer Tony Bingham, who sold it to a private collection in America (*no recent information about this instrument*)
- HR29\* oboe in c1, ebony, decorative ivory turnery, silver keys  
private collection, New Zealand (*no recent information about this instrument*)
- HR30- tenor oboe in f1, stained European boxwood, ivory rings and silver keys  
Musée de la Musique, Paris, no. E.1185

Oboes by Fredrik-I or Fredrik-II Richters:

- FR1- oboe in c1, ebony, engraved silver rings and (plain) silver keys  
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 439-1933
- FR2- oboe in c1, ebony, plain ivory rings and engraved silver keys  
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 624-1933
- FR3- oboe in c1, stained fruitwood, silver mounts and keys  
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 434-1933
- FR4- oboe in c1, stained European boxwood, plain ivory rings, silver keys  
private collection (Han de Vries), Amsterdam

Unstamped oboes in the Richters style:

- RS1- oboe in c1, stained European boxwood, silver mounts and engraved silver keys  
Rijksmuseum Amsterdam no. ? (not in Boers Collection)  
from 1952 to 2010 on loan to Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 4-x-1952
- RS2- oboe in c1, ebony(?), silver mounts and engraved keys  
Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 442-1933
- RS3- oboe in c1, ebony(?), silver mounts and engraved keys  
Rijksmuseum Amsterdam ? (not in Boers Collection)  
from 1952 to 2010 on loan to Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, no. Ea 5-x-1952
- RS4- oboe in c1, ebony with silver keys and mounts  
Musée de la Musique, Paris, no. E.999.9.3
- RS5- oboe in c1, ebony with silver keys and mounts  
Waddeson Manor, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England. no. ?
- RS6- oboe in c1, stained European boxwood with silver mounts and engraved silver keys  
private collection, on loan to Han de Vries, Amsterdam

Historical reports of instruments by H. Richters and F. Richters

The above lists differ in some aspects from those of Adkins and Young, the latter's being based on Adkin's (Cecil Adkins, 'Oboes beyond compare: the instruments of Hendrik and Fredrik Richters', *AMIS-Journal* 16 (1990), p. 42- 1170. Not only have new instruments been discovered (or rediscovered) over the past few years, but a few oboes of whose existence nothing had been known were not yet attributed, or if they were, it was to the wrong maker.

Compared with the large number of surviving Richters instruments, the number of listings in historical collections is surprisingly small. When Nicolas Selhof's collection was auctioned at The Hague in 1759, lot no. 159 consisted of two ebony oboes by Richters. Whether they were by H. or F. Richters was however not specified. In 1776 in Amsterdam the following specification is encountered: *drie fluiten van Terson, Richters en 1 defect*. This formulation suggests that the Richters instrument could also have been a recorder or a traverso.