

Makers' marks on Dutch woodwind instruments from the 17th and 18th centuries

List of Dutch woodwind makers

- Abraham van Aardenberg (1672 - 1717)
- 1-Jan (Barend) Beuker (1691 - 17 ??) and 2-Jan Barend Beuker (1737/1741-1816)
- Willem Beukers Senior (1666-1750) and Willem Beukers Junior (1703-1781)
- Thomas Boekhout (1666 - 1715) and Jan Boekhout (1686 - 17??)
- Philip Borkens (1693 - >1761)
- I. Deppe (ca. 1730 - 1801)
- Van Driel (<1714 - >1714)
- F. Eerens (1694? - 1750?)
- D. van Gulik (? - ?)
- Richard Haka (in/before 1646 - 1705)
- Klaas van Hallum (1720 -1791)
- Van Heerde (including 'IVH')
 - 1- Jan Jurriaensz van Heerde (1638 - 1691)
 - 2- Albert(us) van Heerde (1674 - ca. 1720)
 - 3- Jan van Heerde (1704 - ca. 1750)
- Bernard Hemsing (1703/1704 - 1776)
- Andries Hillebrandsz (<1663 - >1680)
- Jan de Jager (ca. 1658 - 1692) and Frederik de Jager (1685 - 17??)
- Reindert Jansen (16?? - 1691)
- Johannes van de Knikker (1731 - 1817)
- Caspar Leijdeman (? ca. 1669 - 1701)
- Johannes van Lints (1677 - 1734)
- Johannes Nieuwenhooven (1670 - <1717?)
- Michiel Parent (1663 - 1710)
- Hendrik Richters (1683 - 1727), Fredrik-1 Richters (1694 - 1770) and Fredrik-2 Richters (17?? - 17??)
- Coenraad Rijkel (ca. 1664 - 1726)
- H. Rijkstijn (? - ?)
- I. Roosen (? - ?)
- Engelbert Terton (1676 - 1751)
- Jan Steenbergen (ca. 1676 - ??)
- Weijdemuller (?? - ??)
- Robbert Wijne (Nijmegen 1698 - Nijmegen 1774) and Willem Wijne (Nijmegen 1730 - Nijmegen 1816)

The numbers to the pictures of the makers' marks refer to the instruments in the list of Dutch woodwind instruments from the 17th and 18th century.

Abraham van Aardenberg (Amsterdam 1672 - Amsterdam 1717)

Maker's marks:

The following combinations are found in the stamps on Van Aardenberg's instruments:

a- AARDENBERG in a scroll, the first A combined, due to the 'van' in his name, with a large V whose arms project further than the A; below are three widely-spaced fleurs de lis in the classical tall model. There is one example of an instrument with this type of stamp: the alto recorder no. 5.

b- AARDENBERG in a scroll, the crossbar of the first A replaced by a small v whose arms barely project beyond the A; under the name are three fleurs de lis, above it is a leaping deer. Examples are recorder no. 6 and oboe no. 15.

c- as the above stamp, but with only one fleur de lis under the name. This is the stamp most frequently found, for instance on the sopranino recorder no. 1, the two soprano recorders nos. 3 and 4, the traverso no. 12 and the two oboes nos. 13 and 14 in the Gemeentemuseum Den Haag and oboe no. 16.



Stamp type a-



type b-



type c-

Jan Beuker (Mengede, Germany ca. 1737 - Amsterdam 1816) and/or Jan Barend Beuker (Drijnstijnwurf, Germany ca. 1691 - Amsterdam ?)

Maker's marks:

Certainly one and possibly two makers by the name of Jan or Jan Barend Beuker worked in Amsterdam. This assumption is supported by the two different stamps on the instruments.

a- The first stamp looks like this: IB BEUKER (which may perhaps be read as JB BEUKER) flat curve without a scroll. Stamped above the name is a rampant lion. The only instrument with this stamp is oboe no. 1

b- The other stamp is found on ten traversos and bass traversos: I BEUKER (which may likely be read as J. BEUKER), with a fairly large space between the 'I' and the 'B'. There is a crown stamped above the name, and on most of the instruments AMSTERDAM is stamped on one of the joints (usually the foot). Examples are the boxwood traverso no. 3 and the ivory traverso no. 4.

c- On the parts of traverso no. 6 there is a small figure that might be a 5 or maybe a stylised S.



Stamp type a-



type b-



type c-

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-

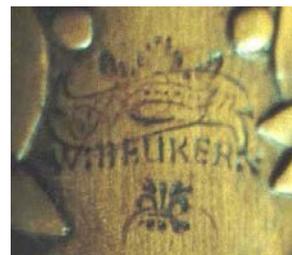


type b2-



type a2-

stamp on oboe 16



Thomas Boekhout (Kampen 1666 - Amsterdam 1715) and his son Jan Boekhout (Amsterdam 1696 - ?)

Maker's marks:

Three quite different stamps are found on Boekhout's instruments, one of them again occurring in two or three variants. It is not known which stamps were used by Thomas and which by Jan Boekhout, and there is also the problem that other people made and sold instruments with the Boekhout stamp (Thomas Boekhout complained about that in an advertisement).

a- The first stamp consists of the name BOEKHOVT (with a V instead of a U), not in a scroll but in a fairly pronounced curve, and surmounted by a small crown (recorder no. 8, bass recorders no. 11 and 13, and oboe no. 19).

b1- The second and most frequently used stamp consists of the name T.BOEKHOUT (preceded by the initial T and with a proper U), again not in a scroll but in a flat curve surmounted by a small crown; under the name is a lion rampant to the left side. The full-stop between the T and the B is centred halfway up those letters. The lion is slightly larger than the crown. Stamps of this type are found on the alto recorders no. 5 and no. 6, on the bass recorder no. 9 and on the clarinet no. 20.

b2- as b1-,but the lion rampant is missing (recorders 1, 2 and 7)

b3- Some of the bass recorders have bigger stamps very like the previous ones and a crown slightly taller and wider than the rampant lion (Boekhout no. 16).

c- The third stamp is just the name, T.BOCHOVT (or I.BOCHOVT), in a flat curve and again with a centred full-stop between the T and B. This stamp (without a crown or a lion) is found on one instrument only, the alto recorder no. 8a.



stamp type a



type b1



type b2



type b3

type c



Philip Borkens (Amsterdam 1693 - Amsterdam after 1761?)

Maker's marks:

Borkens' stamp is strikingly similar on all his instruments. The name P BORKENS is stamped in a flat curve, not in a scroll, and without a full-stop between P and B. Above the name is a crown and below the name a rampant lion to the left side. The crown is a distinctive 'boat-shaped' model with rounded sides.

stamp on traverso 2-



Wybrand van Buren (Amsterdam, was active as maker from 1709)

Maker's marks:

Van Buren's mark on his only surviving oboe is very simple: WVBUREN (without stops) in a fairly pronounced curve, without a scroll and without any other workshop marks.



I. Deppe (Leiden ca. 1730 – Amsterdam 1801)

A one-keyed traverso kept at The Hague bears the stamp of I. Deppe. The marks, a lion and a small crown, indicate that the instrument was made in the Netherlands. It is however not known where I. Deppe lived and worked. The name Deppe does occur in the Netherlands, for instance in Rotterdam, where there was family by that name, but apparently of German ancestry.



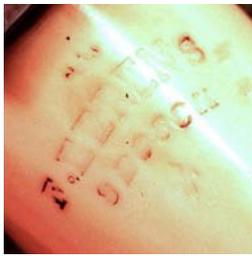
F. Eerens (no biographical information)

Maker's marks:

Scarcely anything is known of a fluytenmaker called Eerens. A few traversos stamped F.Eerens are additionally stamped with the name of a town S:BOSCH ('s-Hertogenbosch), but another instrument is stamped IN UTRECHT. However, the name Eerens or Erens does not occur in the 's-Hertogenbosch archives, and the records found in Utrecht are not conclusive. The Utrecht archives do record the burial of a man called Franciscus Eerens on September 4 1784, but there is nothing to suggest that this Franciscus was an instrument maker. Waterhouse gives March 4 1694 as Frank Eeren's date of birth and 1750 as the year of his death (in Utrecht), but the source of this first name and of the dates is totally obscure.

The stamps:

- a1- F.EERENS, no scroll, with a small crown above the name; below the name the inscription S:BOSCH and below that a traditional (high) fleur de lis (Eerens-no. 3)
- a2- The same stamp, without the inscription of S:BOSCH (Eerens no. 3)
- b- F EERENS, and below the name 'IN UTRECHT' (Eerens no. 2)
- c- F.EERENS, stamped with a blurred little figure or numeral (1?) below the maker's name (Eerens no. 4)



type a1-



a2-



b-



c-

D. van Gulik (no biographical information)

The stamps on Van Gulik's only extant traverso differ from those of other Dutch makers, and not only in their design.

The name D.V.GULIK is printed in a semicircular arc, surrounded by a narrow scroll.

Stamped above the name on three of the four joints of this flute is a double eagle.

The name 'Van Gulik' is likely to be Dutch, the double eagle can be found in the coat of arms of several cities in the eastern or northern parts of the Netherlands, such as Arnhem, Nijmegen and Groningen. But still no biographical information has been found.



Richard Haka (Londen, in/before 1646, Amsterdam 1705)

Maker's marks

At a first glance the stamps on Haka's instruments appear to be identical; however, closer inspection and accurate measurements reveal a few slight discrepancies. The usual stamp is R.HAKA in a scroll. The letters are virtually sans serifs and the full-stop between the R and H is centred. Below the scroll on most of his instruments Haka stamped a single, wide-model fleur de lis ('truncated lily'), see photos a- en b-. On some instruments the fleur de lis is missing (c-).

The length of the scroll (and subsequently the size of the letters) shows small variations. Forgery, notably in connection with his nephew Coenraad Rijkel, was an issue in Haka's career. Take the somewhat different Haka stamp on the foot-joint of an alto recorder in Sigmaringen, the only component examined during this investigation that had two different stamps: C.RYKEL and R.HAKA. The latter differs slightly from those found on 'genuine' Haka instruments: the R and H are almost parallel, whereas on other Haka stamps these letters follow the curvature of the scroll, more closely and thus stand at an angle to each other. The constriction on the right-hand side of the scroll is less pronounced than on genuine Haka stamps (d-).



a- Haka no. 32-



b- Haka no.16-



c- Haka no. 1-



d- Rijkel no, 3-

Klaas van Hallum (Hallum 1720 - Groningen 1791)

Maker's marks

Van Hallum's traverso in Yale University's collection of musical instruments (New Haven, USA) is remarkable for a spelling error in the stamp: HALLUW instead of Hallum (the die-cutter evidently inverted the M by mistake). The name is printed in a semi-arc, without a scroll. Above the name are the letters C and V, and above them four small circles are stamped in a rhombus. The circles indicate the corps de rechange, the longest of which is stamped with one circle, the second longest with two, etc. According to information obtained by Susan Thompson, Van Hallum's name is spelled correctly on his oboe in the collection of the musical instrument museum at St. Petersburg.



stamp on oboe
in St. Petersburg



stamp on traverso
in New Haven

(after a drawing by Susan Thompson)

Jan Jurriaensz van Heerde (1638-1691), Albert(us) van Heerde(1674-ca. 1720) and Jan van Heerde (1704-ca. 1750)

Maker's marks

Archive records document three successive generations of instrument makers who were members of the Van Heerde family: Jan Jurriaensz (1638-1691), Albert(us) (1674-ca. 1720) and Jan van Heerde (1704-ca. 1750).

Two recorders in early baroque style are stamped I.V.H in a scroll, and it is likely that these instruments were made by the first generation, Jan Jurriaensz van Heerde. It is however not possible to assign the other stamps to the second and third generation.

The symbols on Van Heerde's instruments are not always identical. On several instruments, such as the recorders no. 1, no. 2 and no. 6, and on oboe no. 12, there is a small crown above the name. Stamped on the traversos, though, below the name, is a rampant lion facing left. Inspection of the stamps revealed slight differences between the lions.

Traverso 8 has also the low fleur de lis (as on the instruments by Beukers and Haka).



Van Heerde 1-



Van Heerde 2-



Van Heerde 5-



Van Heerde 8-



Van Heerde 6a-



Van Heerde 14-



Van Heerde 19-

Bernard Hemsing (Wesel, Germany 1703/1704 - Leiden 1776)

Maker's marks:

Hemsing's stamp appears in identical form on all three of his surviving instruments:
B.HEMSING in a pronounced curve, with a crown above the name; below is a rampant lion to the right, which is an exception to the Dutch convention.



stamp on Hemsing-2



stamp on Hemsing-3

Jan de Jager (Aachen - Germany, ca. 1658 - Amsterdam 1692) & Fredrik de Jager (Amsterdam 1681 - ?)

Maker's marks:

Whether father Jan de Jager actually built woodwind instruments remains unconfirmed; maybe he only sold them. Biographical information and a surviving instrument stamped with his son's name (Fredrik de Jager) are conclusive evidence of his activity as an instrument maker. The stamp on the centre joint of the alto recorder no. 1 shows a sun, under which, in a curve and without a scroll, is the name D'JAGER (the D slightly smaller than the other letters), below which there is a rampant lion to the left side. The stamp does not tell us whether the recorder was made by father Jan or son Fredrik.

Things are different with oboe no. 2, on which the sun is replaced by the letters FRE:, below which the inscription D'JAGER describes a flat curve (there is a colon behind FRE and the D is the same size as its companion letters, from which it is separated by a centred full-stop, and below which is the lion rampant to the left side.



De Jager 1-



De Jager 2-

Johannes van de Knikker (Tilburg 1731 - Tilburg 1815)

Maker's marks:

Johannes van de Knikker stamped all his instruments in the same fashion with the name KNIKKER, the letters I.V.D above, a star below.

Instruments 1 and 3 show a more comprehensive stamp combination with, under the name KNIKKER, the name of a town: TILBORGH (= Tilburg).



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-

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-

Coenraad Rijkel (London 1664 - Amsterdam 1726)

Maker's marks:

Coenraad Rijkel stamped his instruments in the same way as his uncle, Richard Haka: with the name C.RYKEL in a scroll ca. 16 mm wide and in the middle, below which there is a 'short' fleur de lis. Rijkel also used his uncle Richard's stamp on the foot of one of his recorders (Rijkel no. 1/3) it is plain to see that the letters on Rijkel's stamp have slightly thicker lines and hence greater 'depth' than those on Haka's stamp.

On his bassoon Rijkel (no. 7) stamped a unicorn: no other Dutch woodwind makers used this symbol in their stamps.



Rijkel 2-



Rijkel 3-



Rijkel 3-



Rijkel 7-

H. Rijkstijn (no biographical information)

Maker's marks

No biographical data pertaining to a maker by the name of H. Rijkstijn were found.

Two extant oboes stamped H. Rijkstijn are in the style of oboes by Hendrik and Frederik Richters. Rijkstijn's stamp bears also a marked resemblance to the stamp used by the Richters family: H.RYKSTYN in a flat curve, no scroll. Stamped below the name is a clover leaf, its stalk bending towards the right. Cecil Adkins writes that the American oboe-maker Mary Kirkpatrick reported a Richters stamp over which Rijkstijn's was superimposed.

However, personal inspection revealed no trace whatsoever of a Richters stamp.



Rijkstijn 1-



Rijkstijn 2-

I. Roosen (no biographical information)

Maker's marks

Only one of Roosen's instruments, an attractively designed bass recorder, still exists. The name 'Roosen' might be Dutch; however we have not found any information about a woodwind maker with the name Roosen.

The stamp on the bass recorder is simple but charming. The name I.ROOSEN with a centred full-stop between the I and the R, no scroll, below the name is a five-petalled rose.



Jan Steenbergen (Heerde 1676 - Amsterdam ?)

Maker's marks

Steenbergen's stamp is identical in the composition, form and dimensions of all his instruments: the name I:STEENBERGEN. (with a full-stop above the initial I and at the end of the surname) in scroll. Below the scroll is a fleur de lis. This lily has a distinctive tripartite crown rather like a clover leaf, a design not found on any other Dutch makers's stamps.

Steenbergen's stamps are often beautifully printed and preserved, especially on unstained boxwood, for instance on his oboes no. 14 and 17. On some instruments Steenbergen stamped a fleur de lis, for instance on the top cove of his oboe no. 14.



Steenbergen 14-



Steenbergen 17-



Steenbergen 14-

Engelbert Terton (Rijssen ? 1676 - Amsterdam 1752)

Maker's marks

Terton's instruments are stamped as follows: with the name E:TERTON in a flat curve, no scroll; above the name a crown and below it a rampant lion facing left. The lion is missing on at least two instruments: the alto recorders no. 4 and no. 7. Terton stamped a single lion on the back of the waist on the bell of the oboe no. 11.



Terton 2-



Terton 7-



Terton 11-

Weijdemuller (no biographical information)

Maker's marks

It is not known where or when the instrument maker called Weijdemuller lived; there are therefore no grounds for classifying him as a Dutch maker. The fact that he marked his instruments with a windmill is an obvious clue to his name: 'muller' comes from the German word for miller, but can also be of Dutch origin. His traverso in the Gemeentemuseum Den Haag's collection does have a few technical characteristics in common with those of other Dutch traversos, and it is perhaps no coincidence that two of the three traced instruments have been in the Netherlands for a considerable time.



Weijdemuller 1-

Robbert Wijne (Nijmegen 1698-1774) and Willem Wijne (Nijmegen 1730-1816)

Maker's marks

Robbert Wijne's stamp is on all his instruments the same: R.WYNE in a scroll. Above this is a wide crown, below it the double eagle from the arms of Nijmegen. The 'W' in Wijne's name-stamp looks like two intertwined V's. Two of Robbert Wijne's instruments have another stamp on one of their sections: NYMEGEN, in a scroll.

A striking feature exclusive to Robbert Wijne's instruments is his use of small six-pointed stars (asterisks) on a few of his instruments, sometimes on the front, on other instruments on the back.



R.Wijne 7-



R.Wijne 14-



R.Wijne 2-



R.Wijne 8-

Two different stamps are found on the three instruments of the son of Robbert, Willem Wijne's. On his bassoon no. 2 the stamps in the rather fragile wood are indistinct. Those on the two other instruments are however quite distinct and the differences are quite evident. Both instruments are stamped W.WYNE in a scroll, a crown above and a double eagle below. On W. Wijne's traverso no. 1 the scroll is less undulating and is slightly convex at the top over the entire length; on the left of the initial W there is a little space towards the left edge of the scroll. On W. Wijne's rackets no. 3 the scroll is more undulating (convexo-concave) and the leftmost W impinges on the edge of the scroll. The Nijmegen stamp appears on the bassoon and the rackets; it is virtually identical with Robbert Wijne's Nijmegen stamp.



W.Wijne 1-



W.Wijne 3-



W.Wijne 3-