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Reed Makers

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## Reed Makers

**T**HE interest in reeds shown by recent articles in this JOURNAL has prompted me to gather together notes I have made on reed makers; many of these are known to Langwill, but I give some new ones and show where examples of their work are to be found in some collections. I have not followed up those listed by Bruce Haynes in *FOMRHI* Communication 337, 1981. Warwick refers to the collection made by Eric Halfpenny and given to Warwick County Museum. I must thank William Waterhouse for additions to this list and in particular for the Bainbridge reference to Ling's reeds.

CRAMER, John — familiar as a woodwind maker, he is also described as a reed maker in 1798. See my note in *GSJ* XIX, 134 (where throughout for 20 Charing Cross read 30 and vice versa). He moved to Pimlico Road in 1813 and appears in directories until 1828 as martial musical instrument maker.

FAGG, HULL and MANN — clarinet reed thus stamped associated with three T.Key clarinets in original case, Rendall collection, Galpin Society Exhibition, Edinburgh 1968 no. 650.

GEBRAND, G. — bassoon reed in Shakleton collection, stamped G. GEBRAND/LONDON.

GERRARD, H. J. — bassoon reed in Henk de Wit collection, Amsterdam.

GOODMAN, Adam (c.1720–1774) — he appears in Mortimers Directory, 1763 (*GSJ* II, 27) at Martlett Court, Bow Street, Covent Garden as 'Eminent for making Hautboy and Bassoon Reeds'. Highfill, Burnim and Langhans show that he was a professional bassoonist who was an original subscriber when the Royal Society of Musicians was organised in August 1739. He played the bassoon at the Foundling Hospital in May 1754 and April 1758, and he was in the Covent Garden band between 1760 and 1767. To this can be added that he married Ann Williams at St. Lukes Church, Chelsea on 24th September 1748, and that Westminster Rate Books show he was in Martlett Court from 1759 until his death in 1774. The final entry shows that he died insolvent.

GREEN — bassoon reeds in Oldham collection stamped GREEN/COLD.STM/GUARDS and in Waterhouse collection stamped GREEN/LONDON.

WH. William HAWKES — cor anglais reed, Warwick.

HAWKES & Son — oboe reeds, Warwick.

TK, presumably Thomas Key — clarinet reed thus stamped associated with T.Key clarinets see Fagg, Hull & Mann.

KROLL AINE A PARIS — bassoon reed, Warwick.

LING, Thomas — in the first edition of his Index, Lyndsay Langwill showed that bassoon reeds by Ling were bought for an Essex church in 1828, and that he was living at 35 Cirencester Place, Fitzroy Square in 1835. Directories show that a Mrs. Emma Ling lived at this address in 1853 as reed maker and 1854 as lodging-house keeper. T. Ling played oboe in the York Festivals of 1823, 25 and 28. He suggests Ling may have been the son of W. Ling oboist at the Ancient Concerts from 1823; and he gives the entries in Doanes Directory 1794 for Thomas Ling, Vln, Bassoon and Oboe at Helmet Court and William Ling junior, composer and organ at the same address.

To this I can add the following: Thomas Ling, musician voted in the Westminster elections of 1774, 88 and 90 and was living at 8 Helmet Court, Strand. Rate Books show that he lived there from 1773 to 1796 and that he then moved to Cirencester Place. William Bainbridge in his *Observations on the case of imperfections in wind instruments . . . also remarks on oboe, clarinet and bassoon reeds* (London 1823, pp. 14–15, copy in US–Wc) says ‘. . . I have seen very good Oboe reeds made by Mr Ling . . . I know the great reputation which Mr Ling’s reeds bear among professors’. Post Office Directories show T. Ling as a Musical Reed Maker at 31 (*sic*) Cirencester Place from 1835–51. Thomas Ling married Amarillis Rogers on 20 July at All Saints, St. Marylebone. He died in 1851, in his will (made 23 October 1850) he left all his goods to his wife Amarillis, who was his executor. She proved the will on 17 November 1851.

This indicates that he was a reed maker mainly of the second quarter of the nineteenth century, and whilst it is certainly interesting that somebody (but who?) was playing a late eighteenth century oboe with a Ling reed, the article by Frederic Palmer in *GSJ XXXV*, 100 ‘Reconstructing an 18th century oboe reed’ should be read with this fact in mind.

Known reeds: for oboe, four reeds in Shakleton collection; two reeds associated with an oboe by W. Milhouse, no. 203 in Bate collection; and one with an oboe stamped Kusder in the Pitt Rivers Museum. For

bassoon: one reed in Waterhouse collection. The reed stamped ----NG/  
----ON in Aylesbury Museum described by Mary Kirkpatrick in *GSJ*  
XXXIV, 148 could read: T. LING/LONDON.

LOWIN, William and Samuel — William voted in the 1780 Westminster election, giving his trade as Musical Reed Maker and his address as Fludyer St., St. Margarets. He paid rates there 1775 to 1782. He then moved to 21 Stansgate St., Lambeth. He appears in Doanes Directory of 1794. Samuel Lowin is listed at the same address in Lambeth in Holdens Directory of 1799, but not in the edition of 1802. James Wood was in Stansgate St., Lambeth 1805–8.

AM: Alfred MORTON — oboe and cor anglais reeds, Warwick.

Mary MORTON — widow of Alfred, bassoon reed, Warwick.

POLLINGTON, Richard — from 1769 to 1776 he was a rate payer in Northgate St., Oxford. He then moved round the corner to George Lane and was there until 1793. He was not a freeman of the City of Oxford. On 27th May 1780 he advertised in Jackson's *Oxford Journal*:

To be sold, wholesale or retail, cheap as in London, warranted good made of fine old seasoned cane—all sorts of REEDS viz. bassoon clarionet hautboy and vox-humain reeds—anyone sending for reeds describing how they like them shall have them sent fit for their use: and all orders addressed to Richard Pollington, maker in George Lane, Oxford will be most thankfully received.

R.S. — oboe reed, Warwick.

SNELLING — this name is stamped on 3 bassoon reeds in the Aylesbury Museum described by Mary Kirkpatrick, *GSJ* XXXIV, 148. He was Professor of bassoon at Kneller Hall in 1859.

TAYLOR, London — clarinet reed thus stamped associated with T.Key clarinets see Fagg, Hull & Mann.

WITTON, Joseph — appears in Post Office Directories 1842–8 as Musical Reed Maker at 10 Johnsons Place, Thames Bank, Westminster.

I will welcome additions and corrections to this list.