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THE BOOSEY & HAWKES ARCHIVE

The company of Boosey & Hawkes has its roots in a number of firms, all producing high-quality instruments, whose records have survived to a greater or lesser extent and now constitute the Boosey & Hawkes Archive.

Thomas Boosey established a bookshop in London in 1792. In 1816, Thomas Boosey Jr. branched out into music publishing. Production of wind instruments began in 1851, and production of flutes began in 1856, the result of collaboration between Boosey & Sons and the flute player and inventor Robert Sydney Pratten. Boosey & Sons also co-operated with bandmaster Carl Boosé in the area of instrument sales.

Already dealers in band and orchestral wind and percussion instruments with a worldwide market, Boosey & Co purchased from Henry Distin in 1868 the sizeable firm of Distin & Co, whose production included a wide range of brasswinds. In 1874 new headquarters and saleroom premises in Regent Street were opened and sales of instruments were concentrated at the new address. In 1876 Boosey & Co opened a new factory at Frederick Mews, Stanhope Place, and Marble Arch to replace the former Distin & Co factory at Great Newport Street, Cranbourn Street, and Covent Garden.

In 1930 Boosey & Co merged with one of their main competitors, Hawkes & Son, to form Boosey & Hawkes. Hawkes & Son had in 1924-5 built the factory at Deansbrook Road, Edgware which was until 2001 the main plant of Boosey & Hawkes. Boosey & Hawkes moved the former Boosey production from Frederick Mews to Edgware in 1931-2.

Boosey & Hawkes bought the leading British firm of flute makers, Rudall Carte, during World War II. Before the War they had also produced brass instruments and reed woodwinds. The production of Rudall Carte woodwinds was continued as a separate operation until the 1980s.

Prior to 1895, the Besson family operated a substantial wind instrument making firm (F. Besson) with factories in Paris and London (their London factory at 100 Euston Road). In 1895 the London operation was sold to become the firm of Besson & Co. In 1933 Besson & Co took out a long lease on the former Boosey factory in Stanhope Place and closed the Euston Road factory. In 1948 production was moved to the Boosey & Hawkes plant in Edgware, and over the following six years the product range of the two companies was consolidated, although Besson & Co was not completely absorbed until 1 July 1968. The Paris Besson company was also acquired by Boosey & Hawkes in or by the 1970s.

Unlike the Boosey & Hawkes Museum Collection, established within Boosey & Co in or before 1905 by their works manager, the acoustician and inventor David James Blaikley, the archive is the incomplete remnant of the highly organised documentation systems of the firms mentioned above. Production and sale of instruments were documented through their various stages, and even in the era of mass production which followed World War II each instrument was given a serial number. The serial numbers enable present-day users of the archival material to follow the trail of individual instruments through various archival records and in many cases identify the original records for instruments which survive in public and private collections.

Various instruments described in the archival documents are unfamiliar today, and identification (by serial number) with surviving instruments allows a positive interpretation of the records. Examples of such identities are: Cavalry Trombone, Lied Horn, Orpheon, Case's Model Trombone, Cornet Columbia, Imperialphone, and Forcor. The precise nature of some other instruments mentioned in the archives is still a matter of speculation, no surviving examples being known. Example of these are: Tenor Euphonion, Baritone Koenighorn, and Georgephone.

The inclusion of a complete record of all Boosey brasswind produced from 1868 to 1985, and a nearly complete record of all Boosey woodwind produced from 1857 to 1986, makes this archive a unique resource, not only for the study of individual instruments but also for a statistical analysis which would reveal trends in the production, development and use of instruments. Similarly, the consistency over generations in record-keeping allows the entire working careers of individual craftsmen (in some cases families of craftsmen) to be traced.

1. DISTIN & CO ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS (1868-1874)

When the factory and stock were purchased by Boosey & Co, the operations were not immediately integrated, but were conducted as separate businesses for nearly six years. The Distin & Co stock books record numerous items 'sold' to Boosey & Co, and the Boosey & Co stock books from 1868 to 1874 record a number of items 'sold' to Distin & Co. There were very few sales in the Distin & Co stock books recorded to overseas customers, so it is probable that Boosey & Co (then at 24 and 28 Holles Street) quickly took over handling the exports of Distin instruments.

1.1 WORK SHOP ORDER BOOKS

In general, it would appear that orders for single instruments were to meet special requirements of customers, orders in larger batches were to replenish stock. Occasionally an order for a single instrument appears to have been for an experimental model, the development of a new production model, or an exhibition example.

A workman was charged with making a batch of instruments. Batch sizes for popular models grew in size over the years. Typical batches were two or three for large instruments and six or eight for small ones. (Later Boosey and Boosey & Hawkes typical batch sizes were sometimes twelve, twenty-four, forty-eight, or even sixty or a hundred. Even larger numbers were recorded for bugles and duty trumpets ordered late 1914, in 1915 and other times of war.)

The function of these books appears to have been:
Recording which instruments had been assigned to which workmen, allocating serial numbers, tracking individual instruments through the production process, accounting for instrument-making labour costs.

The money amounts recorded in the "Remarks & Cost" column appear to be the amounts paid to the workman in charge of making the batch. In many cases the name of an assistant (paid at an hourly rate approaching that of the workman in charge), an apprentice (paid at a much lower rate), or even a "boy" are included. These money amounts appear to be the payments for the main process of assembly only, since valve clusters were made by specialists and recorded separately, and standard components such as stays, water-keys and music card-holders were kept in stock. These money amounts appear to exclude materials, consumables and overheads.

The column "Date given out" appears to be when the workman was charged with making the batch, the actual date of making being in some cases immediate but in other cases weeks or months later. The "Date given out" for an instrument is usually identical with the "Date made up" of the corresponding pistons.

The column "Date received" appears to be when the workman in charge of the batch finished the instrument and it was ready to hand over to the next tradesman. Batches were sometimes "received" simultaneously, more usually over a period in smaller groups or singly. There are anomalies such as instruments being "received" on the same day they were "given out" or even before: these may be errors in data entry or may point to further complexities in the factory operations. Quite often pistons were "made up" before they were received, suggesting the being "made up" was an association on paper of a particular valve cluster with a particular instrument rather than a physical process, and that in these cases the specialist valve maker was working simultaneously with the corresponding instrument maker.

The entries in the column "Description" are mostly straightforward.

The column "Class" in the early books was used for the quality of the instrument and completed with "A", "B", "C", "E", "best" etc. Increasingly a model number was added as in "C17", "A10", "B36" etc. Later the column was headed "Model" and quality letters without model numbers were used only for one-off special orders.

The column "Given to / polish" indicates that this was a separate operation, carried out in a different part of the factory. The entries in the column for the name of the polisher (added from 19 Feb 1916, see Boosey & Hawkes brass instrument books) indicates that the polisher was a specialist.

The entries in the column for the name of the grinder (added from 19 Feb 1916, see Boosey & Hawkes brass instrument books) however indicate that this was not a specialised operation since the workmen who were grinders are recorded elsewhere as instrument makers. This process (honing valve cases and trombone outer slides and grinding pistons and trombone inner slides to close tolerances) required the highest level of skill.

The column "Entered / in / stock" usually corresponds with the entry in the Distin & Co stock book. The column "Charged to Regent St" used instead from 1 May 1874 also often corresponds with the entry in the Boosey & Co stock book (where that exists) but not always. The date entered seems to refer to an accounting operation rather than precisely dating a physical movement of the instrument. There are some anomalies in the dates recorded, and at present there is an element of speculation in interpreting these dates.

Workshop Order Book 1 [missing]

- 1 Workshop Order Book 2 (E82.1)** A227/004
Marked: Workshop order book 3rd June 1870 – Jan 29th 1872. Apparently the orders from Distin & Co at 9-10 Great Newport Street to their workshops, probably reflecting orders from Boosey & Co at 24 Holles Street and at New York. This book arranged in sections, respectively: Instruments: serial numbers 10814-11701 (cornets) and 21855-24537 (other brass), 3 Jun 1870 - 29 Apr 1872.

Pistons: piston numbers 11943-14114, 16 Jun 1870 - 30 Apr 1872.
Water keys, card stands, card stand sockets, stays etc, screws, sundry machine turnings, crooks slides etc, sundries, plush lined cases are also given, see index in the front, listed separately. The columns on the "Instruments" pages are: Date / given out, Date / received, No of / Piston, No of / Inst, Description, Class, Workman's Name, Date / given to / polish, Entered / in / stock, Remarks & Cost.
3 Jun 1870 – 29 Jan 1872

2 Workshop Order Book 3 (E82.2) A227/005

Apparently the orders from Distin & Co. at 9-10 Great Newport Street to their workshops, probably reflecting orders from Boosey & Co. at 24 Holles Street and at New York. Marked: Distin & Co Workshop Order Book 3. This book arranged in sections, respectively:

Instruments: serial numbers 11702-12801 (cornets) and 24539-26960 (other brass), 1 May 1872 - 30 Apr 1874.

Pistons: piston numbers 14115-16575 (includes coded bore sizes for pistons from 1 May 1872 plus those still in stock at 30 Apr 1872), 1 May 1872 - 6 Mar 1874.

Water keys, card stands, card stand sockets, stays etc, screws, sundry machine turnings, crooks slides etc, sundries, plush lined cases, silver work are also listed.

For some instruments, numbers have been added later in red ink 3798-3895 and 14195-14344, the latter five-digit numbers corresponding to Boosey & Co Stock Account Book numbers. The columns on the "Instruments" pages are: Date / given out, Date / received, No of / Piston, No of / Inst, Description, Class, Workman's Name, Given to / polish, Entered / in / stock, Remarks & Cost, The columns on the "Pistons" pages are: Date / given out, No of / Inst, No of / Piston, Description [the bore code is entered at the far right of this column], Class, Workman's Name, Date / received, Date / made up, Remarks & Cost.
1 May 1872 – 30 Apr 1874

3 Workshop Order Book 4 (E82.3) A227/006

W.O.B. 4 represents a fresh start with the record keeping, coinciding with the opening of the premises at 295 Regent Street and the replacement of the Distin & Co. Inscription on the instruments by Boosey & Co. The former Distin & Co sequence of serial numbers was discontinued:

W.O.B. 4 uses a serial number sequence continuing that of Boosey & Co. This book records the orders from Boosey & Co. trading as Distin & Co at 9-10 Great Newport Street to their workshops, probably reflecting the requirements of Boosey & Co. at 295 Regent Street, New York and possibly other branches. The dates instruments were "sent to polish" were included throughout, and the instruments section has a column "Charged to Regent St" from the start of the book, replacing the column "Entered / in / stock". This book arranged in sections, respectively:

Instruments: serial numbers 14345-17814, corresponding to Boosey & Co Stock Account Book numbers, 1 May 1874 - 30 May 1876.

Pistons: piston numbers 16576-19462, 7 Mar 1874 - 29 May 1876.

fitted cases, sundries, crooks, slides, etc, silver work.
Unfinished items at the time of the move are re-entered in Brass Instrument Book 1 (see Boosey & Hawkes brass instrument books) and pistons in stock at the time of the move are re-entered in Pistons Book 1 (see Boosey & Hawkes pistons & sundries books).
1868 – 1873

1.2 STOCK BOOKS

These list the stock held by Distin & Co at 15 June 1868 and the 1st January for each of the years 1870-74 ordered by type of instrument, and the instruments added between stocktakings in serial number order. Against each entry is the date of sale and customer's name (or if unsold a note that it is entered in stock again the following January). Many instruments were "sold" to Boosey & Co, especially in 1874 when it appears that stock was run down at Great Newport Street and transferred to Regent Street. The first mention of Regent Street is on 17 March 1874 when a "Circular Eb" was sold to "Boosey & Co Regent St". Instruments given out before but not completed by 30 April 1874 all have two serial numbers: the Distin & Co numbers (up to 26960, 12801) and the Boosey & Co numbers added later in red ink (3798-3895 and 14195-14344). The five-digit numbers correspond to the entries in the Boosey & Co Stock Account Book. The four-digit numbers do not correspond to any surviving documents, and may possibly refer to Boosey & Co New York stock numbers. The five-digit numbers have been found stamped on instruments, but not the four-digit numbers.

1 Band Instrument Stock Book Cornets/Brass/Wood and Reed (E82.4)^{A227/008}

Stock-taking at 15 Jun 1868
lists cornets up to 9760
lists brass instruments and sundries up to 9772
old stock at 15 Jun 1868 includes:
Cornets, some 'Distin's' some 'French Make'.
Brass Instruments and Sundries: Trombones, Ventil Horns, Sax Horns, Flugel Horns, Tenor Horns, Bombardons, Baritones, Euphonions, Tenors, Bugles, Flugel Horns (continued), Post Horns, Drums including monster 7'7" Gong drum.
Wood & Reed Instruments: Clarinets (metal) up to 3238A; Flutes (metal) up to 3171; Clarinets (wood) up to 3072; Flutes (wood) up to 3232; Bassoons up to 3069; Oboes up to 3078; Saxes up to 3221 (+ 8332); Flags 20025 and 20026; Sarrus 3222-28. Note all in range 3000-3238A, obviously new numbers given at this stocktaking. N.B. 3230A-3238A 'Alhambra goods', duplicate numbers have 'A' added (the latter may have referred to the Alhambra Court at the Crystal Palace).

New stock added: Cornets 10052-10615, 9 Jul 1868 - Dec 1869.

New stock added: Brass instruments 20100-21493, 9 Jul 1868 - 31 Dec 1869.

New stock added: Reed Instruments and Flutes 3229-3415, 20 Jun 1868 - Dec 1869.

(no cornets between 9760 and 10021; some numbers 10021-10051 used for old stock)

(no brass between 9772 and 20001, 20001-20095 used for old stock, 20051 used several times!)

Old stock re-numbered; instruments sold and returned given new numbers

"Aldershot Old Stock" given new numbers

This period is characterised by small batches with quick turn-over. Reed Instruments and Flutes were slow-moving: more remained in stock than were moved. There were many saxhorns, and some ventils horns.

There was no stock-taking at 1 Jan 1869, only 6½ months after the takeover, but thereafter stock-taking was annual.

Stock-taking at 1 Jan 1870 first lists cornets at 31 Dec 1869, e.g. 10118-10126, 10610-10615, plus two pages of Brass Instruments and Sundries. Many were "sold" to Boosey & Co or carried forwards to 1871.

New stock added: Cornets 10616-11053, Jan - Dec 1870

New stock added: Brass instruments 21493A-22634, 14 Jan 1870 - 28 Dec 1870

New stock added: Reed Instruments and Flutes 3416-3496, 1 Jan 1870 - Dec 1870

Stock-taking at 1 Jan 1871

Items unfinished at 31 Dec 1870 listed first

New stock added: Cornets 11054-11535, 16 Jan - Dec 1871

New stock added: Brass instruments 22635-24139A, 26 Jan 1871 - 20 Dec 1871

New stock added: Reed Instruments and Flutes 3497-3766, 3766A, 3768A-3771A, 1 Jan 1871 - Dec 1871

Stock-taking at 1 Jan 1872

Items unfinished at 31 Dec 1871 listed first

New stock added: Cornets 11536-12004 (includes some unfinished from 1871), Jan - Dec 1872

New stock added: Brass instruments 24140-25476, Jan - Dec 1872

New stock added: Reed Instruments and Flutes 3767-3868, 1 Jan 1872 - 4 Dec 1872

Stock-taking at 1 Jan 1873

Items unfinished at 31 Dec 1872 listed first

New stock added: Cornets 12005-12610, Jan - Dec 1873

New stock added: Brass instruments 25477-26571, Jan - Dec 1873

New stock added: Reed Instruments and Flutes 3869-3966, 1 Jan 1873 - Dec 1873

[15 Jun 1868 – 31 Dec 1873].

1868-1873

**2 Band Instrument Stock Book Cornets/Brass/ Wood and Reed
(E82.5) A227/009**

New stock added: Brass instruments 26151-26960, Jan - Sep 1874

New stock added: Cornets 11443-12801, Jan - Sep 1874

New stock added: Reeds and Flutes 3165-3972, Jan - Sep 1874
(book mostly blank pages)

Stock held on 1 Jan 1874 includes nineteen "French Make Cornets"
10119 ... 12505, these numbers are gaps in the Workshop Order Book
series.

Jan - Sep 1874

2. BOOSEY & SONS, BOOSEY & CO and BOOSEY & HAWKES ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS (1857-1985)

This highly important collection of documents includes both work shop order books and stock books. The former are divided into *Brass Instrument Books*, *Pistons Books*, and books under various titles documenting the production of woodwind instruments. The production of percussion instruments (mainly drums) was small in comparison with wind instruments, and was recorded at some times in the *Brass Instrument Books* (sharing the brass instrument sequence of serial numbers), and at other times in the same books as woodwinds (with a drum serial number sequence starting at 10000 at the beginning of 1903). After 27 Oct 1934 (serial numbers 14428), later Boosey & Hawkes percussion was numbered in the brass instrument serial number sequence. These latter percussion instruments seem to have been only timpani, bass drums and side drums: B&H dance band drum kit (sold under the trade name "Ajax") is not mentioned in the surviving archival documents.

When Boosey and Hawkes merged, there was a similar lapse in time before the operations of the two firms were integrated. It was not until late 1931 that the first Boosey & Hawkes instruments with serial numbers continuing the former Boosey & Co sequence were ordered from the former Hawkes & Son factory at Edgware.

Orders for instruments were given out in batches to specified workmen, who made the instruments using raw materials and stock items such as stays and water keys. The valve clusters were generally drawn from stock, and the serial numbers for 'pistons' are given alongside the serial numbers for instruments. The polishing, grinding (of pistons and trombone slides) and plating were carried out by different workmen (although the names of the grinders often appear elsewhere as makers). Typical batch sizes in the period 1868 to 1931 ranged from 2 (for contrabasses) through 4 (bombardons), 6 (trombones) to 12 (cornets). Rarer models and special orders were usually made in a batch of 1.

In the later books the hour worked on each batch and the sums of money paid to the workmen are recorded. Often more than one workman was paid for a batch, indicating that the work was shared. Sometimes there would be a payment to an apprentice or "boy"; this was at a pitifully low rate: in 1918 the most skilled workmen were paid 11 pence per hour, apprentices a mere 1½ pence per hour. Following the end of the first World War, wage rates nearly doubled.

The fact that every instrument made was individually recorded means that a count can be made of the production of each model. It is striking that some of the rarer instruments are well represented in collections. Many ballad horns, for example, survive - due to their domestic rather than band use. All four slide contrabass trombones made in this period survive, due to their being orchestral rather than band instruments and not subject to heavy use. On the other hand, some models of instruments made in large numbers have virtually disappeared.

Despite a large production, few Boosey circular basses survive. The F, G and Eb valve trombones have also nearly vanished. Only one Boosey & Co cavalry trombone appears to have survived.

The instrument and pistons order books show the extent to which Boosey & Co employed labour of overseas origin. Algernon Rose, describing his visit to the Boosey factory circa 1893 [Talks with Bandsmen, 1895] writes "I was glad to note that two-thirds of Messrs. Boosey's employés were Englishmen". The names of the most skilled hands suggest that perhaps a higher proportion of craftsmen were of European extraction, and may have learnt their trade abroad. In the period to 1899, the more prominent makers of pistons were: Derkinderen, Holmes, Kurzendorfer, J. Rockaerts, N. Rockaerts, and V. Rockaerts. In the same period, the more prominent makers of instruments were Bailey, Bauer, Bloomfield, Cave, Cook, French, Henry, Hoyer, Jacob, Korb, Kurzendorfer, Last, Mackay, Mooney, Seidel, Sendlick, Squire, Ungelenk, and Villefranc. They all built in the house style rather than with individual characteristics. Each maker was apparently required to make the whole range of instruments; however some makers were favoured for special orders. For example, whenever a rarer model or one-off trombone was ordered, it was entrusted to Jacob.

2.1 FLUTE, REED INSTRUMENT AND DRUM BOOKS

Drums and percussions were included in the brass instruments books until the December 1902, and from November 1934 onwards, although there was little production recorded of drums and percussion in the 1930s.

Apart from the first book, whose original purpose is unclear, the function of these books appears to have been analogous to that of the Brass *Instrument Books*, that is:

Recording which instruments had been assigned to which workmen.

Allocating serial numbers.

Tracking individual instruments through the production process.

Accounting for instrument-making labour costs.

They are apparently the orders from Boosey & Co at Stanhope Place to their workshops, probably reflecting orders from Boosey & Co at 295 Regent Street; from late 1930, orders from Boosey & Hawkes, later at Deansbrook Road, Edgware. Unlike the brass winds, a significant proportion of woodwinds were apparently bought in and stamped with Boosey serial numbers until this practice stopped in 1917.

The columns on the pages of the *Instruments: Wood* books are: Date Charged, Date received, Serial Number, Description, Class, Workman's Name, Date charged to Regent Street, Cost and Remarks, Amount.

Beginning with Book 5, and additional column "Keys to Polish" is inserted between the "Workman's name" and the "Date charged to Regent Street" columns for all woodwinds. This may also have been the case in Book 4 (missing). For alto and bass clarinets, two additional columns exist, one headed "Rough" and the other "Tuned", located after the "Workman's name" column.

- 1 **'Flutes 1857-1883' (E82.141)** A227/012
Serial numbers 4513-11685
1857-1883
- 2 **'Instruments Wood 2' (E82.142)** A227/013
[Previously listed as Wood 1 (spine label) probably a mistake at the binders].
Flutes: Serial numbers 10924-10932, 23 Apr 1879 – 28 May 1879. New work: 10933-12936, 2 May - 15 Dec 1887.
Reeds: Serial numbers 5968-90103, Aug 1879 - 30 Nov 1887
- 3 **'Instruments Wood 2' (E82.143)** A227/014
Flutes: serial numbers 12937-15014, 4 Jan 1888 - 19 Dec 1895
Reeds: serial numbers 9093-12471, 3 Jan 1888 - 23 Dec 1895
- 4 **'Instruments Wood 3' (E82.144)** A227/015
Reeds: serial numbers 12472-16227, 1 Jan 1896 - 16 Feb 1904
Drums: serial numbers 10007-10478, 1 Jan 1903 - 21 Dec 1904
Flutes: serial numbers 15015-17199, 7 Jan 1896 - 17 Aug 1904

Instruments: Wood 4 [missing]

- 5 **'Instruments Wood & Percussion 5' (E82.145)** A227/016
Reeds: serial numbers 19437-22917, 15 Jan 1912 - 29 Dec 1919
Flutes: serial numbers 19344-21089, 3 Jan 1913 - 29 Dec 1919
Drums: serial numbers 11898-13270, 9 Jan 1913 - 24 Dec 1919
- 6 **'Instruments Wood & Percussion 6' (E82.146)** A227/017
Reeds serial numbers 22918-26171, 2 Jan 1920 - 30 Dec 1925
Flutes serial numbers 21090-22540, 14 Jan 1920 - 5 Dec 1925
Drums serial numbers 13271-13825, 20 Jan 1920 - 30 Oct 1925
- 7 **'Instruments Wood & Percussion 7' (E82.147)** A227/018
Reeds serial numbers 26172-29808, 1 Jan 1926 - 31 Dec 1931
Flutes serial numbers 22541-23263, 2 Jan 1926 - 20 Nov 1931
Drums serial numbers 13826-14428, 12 Jan 1926 - 27 Oct 1934
Also includes sections:
Flutes (Hawkes & Son) serial numbers 15151-15239. 4 May 1931 - 23 Nov 1931
Reeds (Hawkes & Son) serial numbers 15662-15667. 1 Sep 1931 - 3 Dec 1931
Saxes (Hawkes & Son) serial numbers 58410-61256. 10 Jul 1931 - 3 Dec 1931
- 8 **'Woodwind & Percussion 8' (E82.148)** A227/019
Flutes: 1937 serial numbers 23264-24503. 2 Jan 1932 - 20 Dec 1937
Reeds: serial numbers 29809-33382. 1 Jan 1932 - 31 Dec 1937
- 9 **'Woodwind & Percussion 9' (E82.182)** A227/020
Flutes serial numbers 24504-25144. 5 Jan 1938 - 24 Sep 1947.

Reeds serial numbers 33383-39526. 4 Jan 1938 - 18 Dec 1947.

- 10 **'Clarinets Mass Produced odd numbers' (E82.7)** A227/021
Includes a few transactions relating to Conn trombones, saxes, etc 1940-2; then clarinets 20 Feb 1946-8 Sep 1948, serial numbers 60000-61549. The book is mostly unused. p100: ex frozen stock 'Revere' numbers not in sequence, late 1950. p120, ex Hüttl, 3 Jan 1951 – 17 Jan 1951.
- 11 **'Instruments Flutes etc' (E82.8)** A227/022
Serial numbers 25145-31199 & 55001 – 55150, late 1947 – 9 May 1950. [dates from this book are only delivery dates, not the dates the serial numbers were allocated]
- 12 **'Instruments Wood 10' (E82.9)** A227/023
Serial numbers 39589-52872, 30 Dec 1947 – 9 Jun 1950. [from late 1949 includes both reeds and flutes]
- 13 **'Instruments Reed 11' (E82.10)** A227/024
Serial numbers 52873-65919, 9 Jun 1950 – 8 Jul 1951. [books 11 onwards include reeds and flutes]
- 14 **'Instruments Reed 12' (E82.11)** A227/025
Serial numbers 65920-82150, 10 Sep 1951 – 14 Jun 1953.
- 15 **'Instruments Reed 13' (E82.12)** A227/026
Serial numbers 82151-97698, 14 Jun 1953 – 2 Sep 1954 .
- 16 **'Instruments Reed 14' (E82.13)** A227/027
Serial numbers 97699-115626, 2 Sep 1954 – 10 Jan 1956.
- 17 **'Instruments Reed 15' (E82.14)** A227/028
Serial numbers 115627-134314, 14 Dec 1955 – 29 Jan 1957.
- 18 **'Instruments Reed 16' (E82.15)** A227/029
Serial numbers 134315-151999, 18 Jan 1957 – 27 Oct 1958.
- 19 **'Instruments Reed 17' (E82.16)** A227/030
Serial numbers 152000-168469, 27 Nov 1957 – 24 Jan 1959.
- 20 **'Instruments Reed 18' (E82.17)** A227/031
Serial numbers 168470-186850
[dates issued given from 22 Jan 1960 this book and in books 19-21]
Loose sheet of paper listing serial number which are not used. 4
Dec 1958 - 17 Nov 1960
- 21 **'Instruments Reed 19' (E82.149)** A227/032
Serial numbers 186851-199986, 1 Nov 1960 - 16 Dec 1961
- 22 **'Instruments Reed 20' (E82.150)** A227/033
Serial numbers: 199987-213800, 12 Jan 1962 - 25 Oct 1962

- 23 'Instruments Reed 21' (E82.18)** A227/034
Serial numbers: 213801-230441, 25 Oct 1962 - 19 Jul 1963
- 24 Instruments Reed 22 (E82.151)** A227/035
Serial numbers: 230442-261544, 2 Aug 1963 – 19 Feb 1964 [NB: only delivery dates are recorded].
- 25 Instruments: Reed 23 (E82.152)** A227/036
Serial numbers: 261545-321841, 23 Sep 1964 – 3 Nov 1969
[NB: only delivery dates are recorded].
- 26 Instruments: Reed 24 (E82.153)** A227/037
Serial numbers 321842-390886, 23 May 1969 – 3 Nov 1972
[NB: only delivery dates are recorded].
- 27 Instruments: Reed 25 (E82.154)** A227/038
Serial numbers 390887-452069, 3 Nov 1972 - 12 Mar 1976
[NB: only delivery dates are recorded].
- 28 Instruments: Reed 26 (E82.155)** A227/039
Serial numbers 452200-479902, 28 Jan 1976 - 25 Sep 1977
[dates issued given in this book]
- 29 Instruments: Reed 27 (E82.156)** A227/040
Serial numbers 479903-509285, 7 Oct 1977 – 6 Nov 1979
[dates in books 27-30 are only delivery dates, not the dates issued]
- 30 Instruments: Reed 28 (E82.157)** A227/041
Serial numbers 509286-538234, 7 Nov 1979 – 23 Sep 1981
- 31 Instruments: Reed 29 (E82.158)** A227/042
Serial numbers 538234-567299, 22 Sep 1981 – 17 Feb 1984
- 32 Instruments: Reed 30 (E82.159)** A227/043
Serial numbers 567300-595949, 2 Mar 1984 – 2 May 1986

2.2 BRASS INSTRUMENT BOOKS

When the works were moved from Great Newport Street to Stanhope Place in 1876, the recording of orders was again re-organised, although the serial number sequences were continued. Separate books were kept for brass instruments and for pistons, recording the orders from Boosey & Co at Stanhope Place to their workshops, probably reflecting the requirements of Boosey & Co at their various addresses. The *Instrument Books* form a sequence starting with Book 1 from 1 June 1876 up to recent times, and the serial number sequence is still current at the time of writing [2002].

These continue the Instruments sections in the Distin & Co *Work Shop Order Books* and are apparently the orders from Boosey & Co at Stanhope Place to

their workshops, probably reflecting orders from Boosey & Co at 295 Regent Street; from late 1930, orders from Boosey & Hawkes, later at Deansbrook Road, Edgware.

Drums and percussions were included in these books until the December 1902, and from November 1934 onwards, although there was little production recorded of drums and percussion in the 1930s.

The entries in the *Instrument Books* became much less detailed from the 1940s onwards, as most instruments were from then on manufactured using mass production techniques. The "Date sent to polish" was entered only until c1940.

Dates recorded after serial numbers are dates given out.

Books 1-25 have entries in sequence of date given out.

Books 26 onwards have entries in sequence of job number.

From Book 32, new columns: Job Card Number, Date Issued, Qty, Serial No, Model No, Date Delivered, Finish, Stamped, Customer, J/C No, Fin J/C.

"I.P." (International Pitch) begins to replace "F.P" (French Pitch) from 7 Feb 1905 although "F.P" occasionally used up to 1912 and later.

"Sun" noted from 20 Feb 1903 onwards, presumably indicating instruments to be marked with the rising sun trademark. They seem all to have been A5, A6 or A7 Model cornets, including many Columbia model cornets, and were probably all made for export to the U.S., the trademark being a subtle hint at the Boosey address in New York at East Street.

Tradename "Acme" mentioned from 1908 onwards.

Many items circa September 1913 'destroyed by fire'.

In 1913 quite a few items given new numbers when returned from NY.

Many "Model" column entries prefixed by "L" or "T" around 1937-38 [signifying lacquer ?].

- 1 **'Instruments 1' (E82.82)** A227/045
Instrument numbers: 17318-17814 [unfinished Great Newport Street instruments at start]. 22 Feb 1876 - 31 May 1876. 17815-26153. [new orders].
1 Jun 1876 - 30 May 1881.
- 2 **'Instruments brass 2' (E82.83)** A227/046
Instrument numbers: 26154-34372.
2 Jun 1881 - 29 Dec 1887
- 3 **'Instruments brass 3' (E82.84)** A227/047

Instrument numbers: 34373-43392.
1 Jan 1888 - 31 Dec 1892

- 4** **'Instruments brass 4' (E82.85)** A227/048
Instrument numbers: 43393-51199. ["Model" replaces "Class" as the column heading].
2 Jan 1893 - 30 Oct 1897
- 5** **'Instruments brass 5' (E82.86)** A227/049
Instrument numbers: 51200-61542.
1 Nov 1897 - 30 Nov 1901
- 6** **'Instruments brass 6' (E82.87)** A227/050
Instrument numbers: 61543-70063.
2 Dec 1901 - 23 May 1905
- 7** **'Instruments brass 7' (E82.88)** A227/051
Instrument numbers: 70064-78322.
23 May 1905 - 24 Jul 1909
- 8** **'Instruments brass 8' (E82.89)** A227/052
Instrument numbers: 78323-85358.
24 Jul 1909 - 15 Feb 1913
- 9** **'Instruments brass 9' (E82.90)** A227/053
In 1913 there was a serious fire at the factory: many items circa September 1913 are annotated 'destroyed by fire'. Instrument numbers: 86359-98778. Details of hourly rates of pay for workmen included.
19 Feb 1913 - 21 Feb 1916
- 10** **'Instruments brass 10' (E82.91)** A227/054
Book 10 commences with a heading "The model numbers are as given in the 1916 Catalogue". Instrument numbers: 98779-107168. Columns for polisher and grinder added from Book 10.
19 Feb 1916 - 17 Oct 1919
- 11** **'Instruments brass 11' (E82.92)** A227/055
Instrument numbers: 107169-115072. Column for plating added from this book onwards.
2 Dec 1919 - 20 Apr 1922
- 12** **'Instruments brass 12' (E82.93)** A227/056
Instrument numbers: 115073-123383.
20 Apr 1922 - 3 Jun 1925
- 13** **'Instruments brass 13' (E82.94)** A227/057
Instrument numbers: 123384-131669.
26 May 1925 - 30 Jan 1928
- 14** **'Instruments brass 14' (E82.95)** A227/058

Instrument numbers: 131670-139766.
30 Jan 1928 - 22 Oct 1931

- 15 'Instruments brass 15' (82.96)** A227/059
Book 15 records first the mention of the Edgware factory with posthorn 140095 (given out 18 Dec 1931, charged to Regent Street 29 Dec 1941) "made at Edgware".
Book 15 lists unfinished Hawkes & Son instruments from 1 Jan 1933 at end, some re-numbered.
Instrument numbers: 139767-147332. [dates 'charged to Regent Street' up to Book 15].
21 Oct 1931 - 30 Apr 1936
- 16 'Instruments brass 16' (82.97)** A227/060
Book 16 includes details of engraving, written in hand from 30 Mar 1938, serial number 151860.
Instrument numbers: 147333-155458. [dates 'charged out' from Book 16] 1 May 1936 - 10 Nov 1939
- 17 'Instruments brass 17' (82.98)** A227/061
Instrument numbers: 155459-164143. [column for engraver added from Book 17]
9 Nov 1939 - 3 Sep 1946
- 18 'Instruments brass 18' (82.99)** A227/062
Instrument numbers: 164144-175249.
4 Jul 1946 - 1 Feb 1950
- 19 'Instruments brass 19' (82.100)** A227/063
Instrument numbers: 175250-184150.
1 Feb 1950 - 16 Jun 1953
- 20 'Instruments brass 20' (E82.101)** A227/064
Instrument numbers: 184151-195501.
15 Jun 1953 - 9 Feb 1955
- 21 'Instruments brass 21' (82.102)** A227/065
Instrument numbers: 199502-218878.
9 Feb 1955 - 28 Feb 1956
- 22 'Instruments brass 22' (82.103)** A227/066
Instrument numbers: 218879-240330.
28 Feb 1956 - 3 Jan 1957
- 23 'Instruments brass 23' (82.104)** A227/067
Instrument numbers: 240331-270369. [exact end date not stated].
1 Jan 1957 - 1958
- 24 'Instruments brass 24' (E82.105)** A227/068
Instrument numbers: 270370-294762.

18 Feb 1958 - 22 May 1959

- 25** 'Instruments brass 25' (82.106) A227/069
Instrument numbers: 294763-310405.
22 May 1959 - 31 Mar 1960
- 26** 'Instruments brass 26' (82.107) A227/070
Instrument numbers: 310406-332344.
31 Mar 1960 - 21 Jul 1961
- 27** 'Instruments brass 27' (82.108) A227/071
Instrument numbers: 332345-356729. [15 Jul 1960 last date given out;
column used for order numbers after].
21 Jul 1960 - 1 Oct 1962
- 28** 'Instruments brass 28' (82.109) A227/072
Instrument numbers: 356730-380279.
1 Oct 1962 - 12 Dec 1963
- 29** 'Instruments brass 29' (82.110) A227/073
Instrument numbers: 380280-407609.
12 Dec 1963 - 7 Jul 1965
- 30** 'Instruments brass 30' (82.111) A227/074
Instrument numbers: 407610-435147.
7 Jul 1965 - 17 Apr 1967
- 31** 'Instruments brass 31' (82.112) A227/075
Instrument numbers: 435148-462412.
26 Apr 1967 - 12 Nov 1968
- 32** 'Instruments brass 32' (82.113) A227/076
Instrument numbers: 462413-496553.
12 Nov 1968 - 9 Oct 1970
- 33** 'Instruments brass 33' (82.114) A227/077
Instrument numbers: 496569-528466.
9 Oct 1970 - 20 Jun 1972
- 34** 'Instruments brass 34' (82.115) A227/078
Book 34 states "note: serial nos 560,000 to 564,999 incl taken by Malta
they have their own ledger". The numbers taken by the Malta factory
include: 560000-464999, 606600-611599, 627000-631999. The numbers
taken by the St Albans (formerly Salvation Army) factory include:
604384-604583. Instrument numbers: 528467-567721. [dates from this
book are only delivery dates, not the dates the serial numbers were
allocated]
20 Jun 1972 – c Oct 1974.
- 35** 'Instruments brass 35' (82.116) A227/079

Instrument numbers: 567725-606520.
c Nov 1974 - c Apr 1977

36 'Instruments brass 36' (82.117) A227/080
Instrument numbers: 611600-626099.
c Apr 1977 - c Jun 1978

37 'Instruments brass 37' (82.118) A227/081
Instrument numbers: 626100-647649.
c Jun 1978 - c Sep 1979

38 'Instruments brass 38' (82.119) A227/082
Instrument numbers: 647650-659449.
c Sep 1979 - c Jul 1980

39 'Instruments brass 39' (82.120) A227/083
Instrument numbers: 659450-674099.
c Jul 1980 - c Sep 1981

40 'Instruments brass 40' (82.121) A227/084
Instrument numbers: 674100-688792.
c Sep 1981 - c Sep 1982

41 'Instruments brass 41' (82.122) A227/085
Instrument numbers: 688800-708999.
c Sep 1982 - Dec 1983

42 'Instruments brass 42' (82.123) A227/086
Instrument numbers: 709 000-723999.
Nov 1983 – Jan 1985

43 'Instruments brass 43' (82.124) A227/087
Instrument numbers: 723400-737749.
Nov 1984 – Dec 1985

2.3 PISTONS AND SUNDRIES BOOKS

These continue the Pistons sections in the Distin & Co *Work Shop Order Books* and are effectively the orders from Boosey & Co at Regent Street to Boosey & Co at Stanhope Place.

The later piston-valved instruments of Distin & Co, all the piston-valved instruments of Boosey & Co, and earlier Boosey & Hawkes piston-valved instruments have pistons numbers stamped on the valve casings. These numbers form one sequence from prior to 1868 until the practice was discontinued. The last "Pistons Book" was never completed, recording and separate numbering of pistons being discontinued some after 19 Oct 1952, contributory factor will have been the closure of the Besson factory in 1948 and the movement of Besson production to Edgware. However, at least one higher

piston number has been observed on an instrument, so recording in the "Pistons Book" probably ceased before stamping on the valve casings.

Rotary valves (termed 'cylinders' in the records) were also employed on a small number of instruments, but these are not given serial numbers or entered in the Pistons Books.

The valves were made by specialist workmen. Most were made in quite large batches (6, 12, 24, even 48) and kept in stock until required. Instruments were made either in batches (e.g. for stock) or in response to special orders. It was thus common for an instrument to have been made with pistons that had been in stock for several years. Quite frequently, however, pistons were made immediately before the instruments. And occasionally, presumably for a rush order, work would start on the instrument before the pistons were finished.

The serial numbers for the instruments eventually incorporating the valve clusters were added alongside the serial numbers for pistons, and the date the pistons were "made up" into instruments is recorded, this in many cases being identical with the date the instrument was "given out". Occasionally mix-ups occurred: sometimes a surviving instrument is found to have been made with a different valve cluster from that intended when made up. The codes for bore sizes continued in use throughout the period these books were kept. Costs were systematically added from 1921, but recorded intermittently for earlier pistons.

Dates recorded are dates given out.

- 1 **'Pistons 1' (E82.125)** A227/089
 Distin & Co pistons brought forward from W.O.B. 4.
 In stock on 1 Jun 1876: ... -19462 list, - 29 May 1876.
 New orders: 19463-26703, 15 Jun 1876 - 17 Jul 1882. Includes not only pistons and sundries such as screws for card, ligature, button tops, stays, w.key, crooks for ballad horns, bassoons, etc but also "pairs of gun-metal brake-blocks for Mr Boosey's carriage (4 prs made but 1 useless - misfit)".
 29 May 1876 – 17 Jul 1882.
- 2 **'Pistons 2' (E82.126)** A227/090
 Piston number: ...-26703, not in number order, show list of stock brought forward. ...- 1 Jul 1882.
 Piston number: 26657-34417 list new orders, 14 Jul 1882 - 25 Mar 1890.
 1 Jul 1882 – 25 Mar 1890.
- 3 **'Pistons & sundries 3' (E82.127)** A227/091
 1 Apr 1890: 20688 – 34417 list of stock brought forward.
 New orders: 34317-42115.
 3 Apr 1890 - 28 Oct 1896.
- 4 **'Pistons 4' (E82.128)** A227/092
 Stock brought forward from book 3, 20688 with gaps.

New orders: 42116 – 50104, 1 Nov 1896 - 30 Sep 1901
1 Nov 1896 - 30 Sep 1901

- 5** **‘Pistons 5’ (E82.129)** A227/093
Lists old stock first. At end of old stock the register lists three experimental pistons "Transferred to Museum Dec 30/05", this being the first recorded mention of the museum operated by Boosey & Hawkes until 2001.
New orders: 50105 – 57509
1 Oct 1901 - 12 Mar 1906.
- 6** **‘Pistons 6’ (E82.130)** A227/094
Lists old stock first.
New orders: 57510 - 65582
12 Mar 1906 - 31 Mar 1911
- 7** **‘Pistons 7’ (E82.131)** A227/095
1 Apr 1911 lists old stock.
New orders: 65583 - 73759, 3 Apr 1911 - 9 Apr 1915.
1 Apr 1911 – 9 Apr 1915
- 8** **‘Pistons 8’ (E82.132)** A227/096
Lists old stock first.
New orders: 73760 – 82164
9 Apr 1915 - 15 Nov 1919.
- 9** **‘Pistons 9’ (E82.133)** A227/097
Lists old stock first.
Costs are systematically added from 1921, but recorded intermittently for earlier pistons.
New orders: 82165-93809, 20 Nov 1919 - 6 Feb 1924
- 10** **‘Pistons 10’ (E82.134)** A227/098
New orders: 93810-109846
6 Feb 1924 - 18 Sep 1930
- 11** **‘Pistons 11’ (E82.135)** A227/099
Lists old stock with gaps 1st 109847, 18 Sep 1930.
New orders: 109978-122951 list, 3 Nov 1930 - 13 Jan 1941.
18 Sep 1930 - 13 Jan 1941
- 12** **‘Pistons 12’ (E82.136)** A227/100
New orders: 122952-136279, 13 Jan 1941 - 11 Feb 1949
Serial numbers of made-up instruments only sporadically entered from c Autumn 1945
13 Jan 1941 - 11 Feb 1949
- 13** **‘Pistons 13’ (E82.137)** A227/101
New orders: 136280-144241
11 Feb 1949 - 19 Oct 1952

2.4 STAMPING BOOKS, BRASS INSTRUMENTS

The data in these books was probably derived from the entries in the *Instrument Books*, and little or no further information can be expected to be found in them. In general, details for a batch occupy a line, whereas in the *Instrument Books* details for a single instrument occupy a line.

- 1 **'Stamping book / instruments' (E82.138)** A227/103
Serial numbers 148530-179600
Nov 1936 - 8 Aug 1951
- 2 **'20 Brass stamping book / from: - February 1937 / to: - April 1939' (E82.139)** A227/104
Serial numbers 148984-154014
4 Feb 1937 - 13 Apr 1939
- 3 **'No 22 Brass Stamping Book / 1st January 1943' (E82.140)** A227/105
Serial numbers 159898-167501
5 Jan 1943 - 27 Jun 1947

2.5 DRUM INSIGNIA BOOKS

- 1 **'Boosey & Co Drum insignia 1' (E82.80)** A227/107
Drum design book showing regimental coats of arms for drum decoration. Label front cover: No2 ... 2 Feb 1885 – 19 Jul 1892.
- 2 **'Boosey & Co Drum insignia 2' (E82.81)** A227/108
Drum design book showing regimental coats of arms for drum decoration. Index in front.
26 Jan 1900 – 21 Apr 1903.

2.6 PRICING BOOKS

These books break down the production costs for standard models and special orders. The actual hours spent making typical batches are recorded. They appear to have been kept by D.J. Blaikley and Arthur Blaikley respectively. Mentions Besson.

- 1 **'Boosey & Co / pricing / c1870-c1907' (E82.19)** A227/110
NB: p211 order for India Office [?], 10 Jun 1879.
c1870-c1907
- 2 **Notebook 1925-1940 (E82.20i)** A227/111
1934-40

 Notebook (E82.20ii) A227/111

[Includes separate insert of A5 notebook pages giving prices for parts for repair work]. Last page saxo pads for: M/M, H&S (CUP), B&Co, Besson.
1938.

- 3 **Small leather-bound notebook (E82.21)** A227/113
Stamped on the front cover "Ledger", containing similar information for 1876-1880.

2.7 STOCK BOOKS

There are two Boosey & Co Band Instrument "Stock Account Book Ct/Brass/Wood and Reed" covering January 1868 - December 1873 and January 1875 - December 1875 respectively. As with the Distin stock books these list the stock held by Boosey & Co at the 1st January for each of the years 1868-75 ordered by type of instrument, and the instruments added between stocktakings in order of serial number. Some items were "sold" to Distin & Co and appear correspondingly in the Distin & Co Stock Books. There are entries for the larger number of instruments "bought" from Distin & Co, but not all the items recorded in the Distin & Co Stock Books as sold by Distin & Co to Boosey & Co appear in these Stock Account Books: the other sales were probably to branches of Boosey & Co in New York, Aldershot and elsewhere. For the stock-taking at 1 January 1875, brass instruments occupy 26 pages (reflecting the probable fact that Distin & Co stock and Boosey & Co stock had been combined at Regent Street from September 1874).

- 1 **Band Instrument "Stock Account" book (E82.22)** A227/115
Headings: band Instruments, flute, clarinet. Includes names of purchasers, e.g. often connected to India and H.E. viceroy of India, governor of Bombay etc.
1868-1873

Other woodwinds (flageolets, saxophones, oboes, bassoons and contrafagotts) are included with brass instruments as "Band Instruments".

Stock-taking at 1 Jan 1868: cornets up to 11446A;
valve trumpets up to 11397; cavalry trumpets up to 11280;
bass trumpet 10208 (10003); trumpettina 4581;
lt. infantry bugle up to 11363; hunting horns up to 9212;
French horns up to 11442; flugelhorns up to 11379;
Koenighorns up to 11377; Althorns up to 11434;
soprano saxophones up to 8981; trombones up to 11439;
bassoons up to 11445; euphonions up to 11388; bombardon 11430 (sold to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinr.); ophicleides 10820 and 10821;
oboes up to 10886; bass drums up to 11381; tenor drums up to 11305;
Chinese gong 4829; side drums up to 11400; cymbals up to 11324.
Stock-taking at 1 Jan 1868: flutes up to 8225; fifes up to 8150;
piccolos up to 8206.

Stock-taking at 1 Jan 1868: lists clarionets up to 3627.
 New stock added Jan - Dec 1868: Brass instruments 11446-11841
 Some items made by Distin & Co, Lecomte, "own", Courtois, K & K
 (means Kaiser & Kohler ?), Rudall. (some sold to Distin & Co appear
 correspondingly in the Distin & Co Stock Book 1868-1873 Ct/Brass/
 Wood and Reed)(some also numbered in red ink 2635-)
 New stock added: Flutes 8224-8474, Jan - Dec 1868
 New stock added: Clarionets 3628-3816, Jan - Dec 1868
 New stock added: Brass instruments 11842-12374 Jan - Dec 1869
 (Some correspondences, e.g. Distin & Co 20546-7 are the same as
 B & Co 11889-90, Distin & Co 20540-1 are the same as B & Co 11911-2,
 etc.)
 New stock added: Flutes 8478-8729, Jan - Dec 1869. (Several sold to
 Distin & Co)
 New stock added: Clarionets 3817-4026, Jan - Dec 1869.
 New stock added: Brass instruments 12375-12670, Jan - Dec 1870
 (Some correspondences, e.g. Distin & Co 21712 are the same as B & Co
 12625, Distin & Co 10845 are the same as B & Co 12632, etc.)
 New stock added: Flutes 8730-8912, Jan - Dec 1870
 New stock added: Clarionets 4027-4159, Jan - Dec 1870
 New stock added: Brass instruments 12671-13147, Jan - Dec 1871
 (Some correspondences, e.g. Distin & Co 22472 are the same as B & Co
 12744; "D & Co" occurs more frequently)
 New stock added: Flutes 8913-9305, Jan - Dec 1871
 New stock added: Clarionets 4160-4357, Jan - Dec 1871
 New stock added: Brass instruments 13148-13554, Jan - Dec 1872
 New stock added: Flutes 9306-9525, Jan - Dec 1872
 New stock added: Clarionets 4358-4511, Jan - Dec 1872
 New stock added: Brass instruments 13555-13895, Jan - Dec 1873
 New stock added: Flutes 9526-9734, Jan - Dec 1873
 New stock added: Clarionets 4512-4762, Jan - Dec 1873
 1868-1873

2 **Band Instrument "Stock Account" book (E82.23)** A227/116

Listing band instruments, brass, flute, clarinet, wood, 1874-1875.

This book also has three sections, but not consistently named.
 The categorization of woodwinds other than flutes and clarinets is
 inconsistent, with flageolets, saxophones, oboes, bassoons and
 contrafagotts were recorded in all sections except "Flute" sections.

Stock-taking at 1 Jan 1874: brass instruments occupy 6½ pages.
 New stock added Jan - Dec 1874: Brass instruments 13896-15421
 In May 1874, many items of Distin stock entered and re-numbered, (but
 with pencilled Distin & Co serial numbers)including the Monster Gong
 Drum
 Many hunting horns were made for Callow & Son)
 New stock added: Flutes 9735-9906, Jan - Dec 1874
 New stock added: Clarionets 4763-4989, Jan - Dec 1874

Stock-taking at 1 Jan 1875: brass instruments occupy 26 pages (reflecting Distin & Co Stock and Boosey & Co stock combined at Regent Street from Sep 1874)
 Stock-taking at 1 Jan 1875: (Wood Instrument Stock includes clarionets, bassoons, ophicleides, oboes)
 New stock added: Brass instruments 15422-17078, Jan - Dec 1875 (Many instruments were probably made for B & Co in Britain rather than B & Co NY)
 New stock added: Flutes 9907-10158, Jan - Dec 1875
 New stock added: Wood instruments 4990-5240, Jan - Dec 1875
 1874-1875

3 Band Instrument Stock Book (E82.24) A227/117
 Brass, reed, flute, 1882-1885.

All woodwinds are recorded either in the "Flute" or the "Reed Instruments" sections.
 Lists date, serial number, description and model, date sold, customer.
 Each section gives year by year: stock at January 1 (ordered by model number), instruments previously listed but not completed by December 31 (ordered by serial number), new stock throughout year (ordered by serial number). The book starts with 36½ pages stocktaking of brass instruments at 1 Jan 1882.

On 21 Nov 1882, several instruments were entered "returned from Kelly & Welsh, Shanghai".

New stock added: Brass instruments 26741-28180, Jan - Dec 1882
 New stock added: Flutes 11451-11664, Jan - Dec 1882
 New stock added: Reed Instruments 6725-7210, Jan - Dec 1882
 New stock added: Brass instruments 28181-29662, Jan - Dec 1883
 New stock added: Flutes 11665-12019, Jan - Dec 1883
 New stock added: Reed Instruments 7211-7527, Jan - Dec 1883
 New stock added: Brass instruments 29663-30895, Jan - Dec 1884
 New stock added: Flutes 12020-12344, Jan - Dec 1884
 New stock added: Reed Instruments 7528-7929, Jan - Dec 1884
 New stock added: Brass instruments 30896-32097, Jan - Dec 1885
 New stock added: Flutes 12345-12613, Jan - Dec 1885
 New stock added: Reed Instruments 7930-8245, Jan - Dec 1885
 1882-1885

4 **Band Instrument Stock Book [2] (E82.25)** A227/118

Headings: Brass, flute, reed, 3Aug 1895 - 20 Dec 1899

Lists date, serial number, description and model, date sold, customer.

This is divided into three sections exactly like the *Boosey & Co Band Instrument Stock Book 1882-1885*. Each section gives year by year: stock at January 1 (ordered by model number), instruments previously listed but not completed by December 31 (ordered by serial number), new stock throughout year (ordered by serial number)

Sales represent brass band, military and orchestral instruments, with some models used in more than one performing medium. Sales are worldwide, so are not necessarily typical of British musical practice. The clerks who wrote the stock book rarely gave full details, and it is likely that many of the customers apparently private individuals were in fact dealers or agents. Many of the dealers or agents were overseas firms such as Wm A. Pond & Co in New York, Kelly & Walsh in Shanghai, and S. Marshall & Sons in S. Australia. Research is necessary to identify the locations of other dealers whose purchases are recorded in the stock books. Nevertheless, from looking at individual sales, it is clear that many of the more exotic instruments were destined either for North America or for India.

New stock added: Brass instruments 47298-47844, Aug - 24 Dec 1895

New stock added: Brass instruments 47845-49515, Jan - Dec 1896

New stock added: Flutes 15010-15238, Jan - Dec 1896

New stock added: Reed Instruments 12468-12783, Jan - Dec 1896

New stock added: Brass instruments 49516-51532, Jan - Dec 1897

New stock added: Flutes 15239-15568, Jan - Dec 1897

New stock added: Reed Instruments 12784-13177, Jan - Dec 1897

New stock added: Brass instruments 51533-53850, Jan - Dec 1898

New stock added: Flutes 15569-15723, Jan - Dec 1898

New stock added: Reed Instruments 13178-13539, Jan - Dec 1898

New stock added: Brass instruments 53851-56289, Jan - Dec 1899

New stock added: Flutes 15724-16061, Jan - Dec 1899

New stock added: Reed Instruments 13540-13854, Jan - Dec 1899

3Aug 1895 - 20 Dec 1899

2.8 SOLD JOURNALS

These are day books of sales from one of Boosey & Co's locations, possibly Regent Street (there was a repair shop in the basement at Regent Street until c1990). The number of instruments sold does not seem to account for the total production of the factory.

The entries for each day list items sold or work done together with the price charged, but only very occasionally the name of the customer. The few cited customers were both home and overseas.

After the entries for each calendar month, totals of sums received are given broken down into categories. Up to 28 Feb 1901 the entries occupy both verso and recto, but from 1 Mar 1901 the entries are only on the verso, the recto carrying a day-by-day analysis with page-by-page totals at the foot.

The items listed include:

Instruments (brass, woodwind and percussion), usually only the model number and the serial number cited.

Accessories such as crooks, mutes, cases, stands and lamps; spare and replacement parts; pads for woodwinds in bulk; plating of instruments to order. Repairs, including repairs to instruments by other makers. Customised inscriptions (stamped and engraved) and emblazoning of drums (the band's name usually mentioned). Second hand instruments; cleaning instruments for [exhibition at] contests.

Examples of entries in the *Sold Journals* are:

Bb A6 Cola Sun bells 76361-5 73/-£18/5/-, 28 Aug 1908.

1 Eb A162 ebonite 18501£3/17/-, 30 Jan 1909.

1 Bach Trumpet in A_ 2V. 77535£1/15/-, 2 Mar 1909.

Stamping 11 Instruments Williams & Sons @6d5/6d, 17 Jun 1909.

1 Bach Trumpet 17a. 2V 78131 £1/15/-, 25 Jun 1909.

1 pld Bach Trumpet m'pce to o/r2/-d, 25 Jun 1909.

1 Bass Drum 32in ex 11071 £4/14/-, 30 Sep 1909.

Emblazd Besses o' th Barn £1/2/6, 30 Sep 1909.

(Williams & Sons were agents for Boosey & Co in Toronto.)

- 1 **Sold Journal 6 (E82.26)** A227/120
2 Nov 1898 - 31 Dec 1901
- 2 **Sold Journal 10 (E82.27)** A227/121
Many instruments supplied with Solbron pumps (low-friction bronze pistons for brass instruments). 6 Aug 1908 - 31 Mar 1911
- 3 **Sold Journal 15 (E82.28)** A227/122
Includes music plates. [Title lacking from Journal 15]. 3 Jan 1922 - 30 Jan 1924.
- 4 **Sold Journal 17 (E82.29)** A227/123
2 Jul 1926 - 30 Jun 1928

2.9 BOUGHT JOURNAL

- 1 **Bought Journal 5 (E82.30)** A227/125
Originally in the same size and green/black binding as the *Sold Journals*. These are day books of purchases of materials etc. The entries are only on the verso, the recto carrying a day-by-day analysis with page-by-page totals at the foot, 4 Jan 1901 - Jun 1914.

2.10 SALES CATALOGUES

- 1 **'Boosey & Hawkes Music' (E82.32)** A227/127
Incorporating the publications of Boosey & Co., Ltd. Hawkes & Son (London) Ltd. J.R. Lafleur & Son, Ltd. Universal edition (London) Ltd. Rudall Carte & Co., Ltd. Winthrop Rogers edition, volume I, 1944. Loose in front table of fingerings for the recorder, n.d.
- 2 **'Boosey & Hawkes Group' (E82.31)** A227/128
Looseleaf catalogue in plastic binder includes all instruments, c 1972. Binder is marked: Boosey & Hawkes Group on the front and Boosey & Hawkes (Musical Instruments) Ltd on the side. First page lists other Boosey & Hawkes companies in various parts of the world.

2.11 FINANCIAL BOOKS [incl later subsequent companies]. (See also miscellaneous financial books)

- 1 **'Private Ledger' (E82.71)** A227/130
Year end. Index in the front. Trading profit loss account Dec 1942-56, balance sheet at 31 Dec 1943-56, trading profit & loss account for various departments 1957-9. Management fees 1951-9. Cost of acquisition of C. Wheatstone & Co Ltd, p112.
Dec 1942 - Dec 1959
- 2 **'Private Ledger' (E82.73)** A227/131
Boosey & Hawkes Ltd, p47-54 drums (1934-7), p55-9 xylophones (1934-7), p173-82 drums (1937-43), p183-9 xylophones (1937-43), p287-95 government contracts (war), p407 mouthorgans (1943), profits & loss accounts (1935-43). Also wages etc. 1934-1943.
- 3 **Ledger 1944-1958 (E82.162)** A227/132
Loose-leaf, money paid in alphabetically by supplier. Mentions Besson, Boosey & Hawkes. Date, to cash etc, number, amount.
- 4 **Register of sales (order number order) (E82.34)** A227/133
Spine marked Minute Book. Lists sales showing order number, date, customer ref, customer home address in summary. [Date suggests that this was a Boosey & Hawkes sales register].
1 Dec 1982 - 16 May 1985.

2.12 MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS

- 1 **Press cuttings book (E82.35)** A227/135
Small leather-bound book. Includes press cuttings announcing the death of Thomas Harper Jr, 1898. [This could possibly be associated with a slide trumpet in the Boosey & Hawkes museum collection].

2.13 TECHNICAL DRAWINGS

There is a sizeable collection of technical drawings, occupying several plan chests. These dates from the period 1872 to 1999, mostly from the 1950s to the 1980s, after which the firm used computer drafting techniques.

The drawings include:

Building and furnishing plans for the factory at Edgware.

Technical drawings of general instrument making equipment, machine tools etc.

Designs for tools for specific instruments and components: mandrels, jigs and dies.

Instrument designs for brass, woodwind and percussion.

Correspondence to and from D.J. Blaikley with tables of pitch standards.

Other correspondence and designs, eg Manuel Gomez.

The information relating to the history of instrument construction contained in these is a singularly valuable resource. Many of the older drawings are the work of D.J. Blaikley himself, and the hand of Arthur Blaikley is recorded on drawings as late as 1950. The drawings include substantial remnants of a systematic drawing filing system dating from the late 19th century, organised into folders by instrument type. These folders contain the original drawings for many instruments which, when surviving, are now important museum specimens, such as the model of Lied horn with re-modelled bell profile of 1885. The drawings give critical details of the design of instruments such as bore profiles, tonehole placements and keywork mechanisms.

Some of the drawings are the work of the German maker Hüttl, who worked at the Boosey & Hawkes factory in the early 1950s.

See E92.1-153, E98.1-629 & unlisted drawings CSS – Objects database.

3. HAWKES & SON ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS (1921-1931)

The production of wind instruments by Hawkes & Son was at a level approaching that of Boosey & Co and Besson & Co; fewer records have survived, however documenting this production.

3.1 JOURNALS

- 1 **Journal (E82.36)** A227/138
Paper label marked: "[...] To Hawkes & Son"
Woodwind production by serial number. Serial numbers 7664-15631.
Stamping after Dec 1930 at Frederick Mews.
5 Mar 1921 – 17 Feb 1931.
- 2 **'Journal' (E82.37)** A227/139
Headings: making department, polishing & finishing, miscellaneous making. Lists job numbers, brass instruments made, listed by batch, no serial numbers, 5 Oct 1921 - 1 Sep 1925.

3.2 PLATING BOOKS

- 1 **Plating book (E82.38)** A227/141
Lists instruments, instrument numbers (serial number), ticket number, order number, S plate/remarks and a date. Order shown is in date of electroplating, brasswind instruments (silver plating), and woodwind (chromium, silver and gold plating), Jun 1928 - Dec 1931. [Book begins with serial number 57217 in June 1928 and concludes with 62452 in October 1931; serial numbers run roughly but not entirely sequentially. Also includes 'Empire' model instruments, which appear to have a separate serial number sequence: 100001 was entered in August 1928, 101235 entered in October 1931. This book also includes some Boosey & Co. instruments.](#)

3.3 MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS

- 1 **Flutes & piccolos sales catalogue (E82.39)** A227/143
printed booklet, Jun 1926.

4. RUDALL CARTE ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS (1863-1985)

Documents includes both *Work Books* and *Stock Books*. These series in fact both recorded stock, though the earlier series also included workman's name. The earlier series included records for both brasswind and woodwind. Post-World War II brasswind with Rudall Carte inscription (such as the "tarline" range) was recorded in the B&H *Brass Instrument Books* and numbered in the B&H serial number sequence.

4.1 WORK BOOKS

These are stock books recording the delivery of woodwind and brasswind instruments into stock by named workmen with dates, a brief description of each instrument, and the date of the sale to named customers.

Dates for each volume vary from instrument type to instrument type. Different instrument types had different serial number sequences, dispersed throughout the volumes. As a rough guide, the records begin in 1869 and end during the early 1940s.

The depression badly hit Rudall Carte (along with other instrument makers). Brasswind making ceased in 1939. The books show that the instruments were virtually unsaleable in the 1930s: some new instruments were "sold as secondhand" after being in stock for years.

1 **Rudall Carte Stock 0 (E82.174)** A227/146

Bows, batons, bugles, baritones, cases, cornets, cymbals, concert horns [ballad/vocal horns], drums, double basses, violins, violas, metronomes, pianofortes, reeds, etc. Some listed by serial number other entries show stock taking information. Date, description, serial number, maker. Indexed.

Cocoa and ebonite modern flutes: serial numbers 965-1612

Cornets: in stock 29 Jun 1895: 3709-6726 (with gaps).

Trumpets: in stock 29 Jun 1895: 3306-6489 (with gaps)

(Ballad) Vocal Horns or concert: 3840-4433 (with gaps)

Old style concert flutes (S Rey'd etc): 6847-6990

Tenor horns in stock Jun 29th 1895: 1734-6706 (with gaps)

Baritones in stock Jun 29th 1895: 1997, 3003-6643 (with gaps)

French horns [1905]: 4410-6537 (with gaps)

Trombones in stock Jun 29th 1895: 2059-6708 (with gaps)

Euphoniums in stock Jun 29th 1895: 1878..., 3120-6711 (with gaps)

Saxophones: 6552 & 6573

Bombardones in stock Jun 29th 1895: 3651-6730 (with gaps)

Duty bugles: 3561, 3687, 3796-3980 (with gaps)

Bugles: 2058, 3958-6659 (with gaps)

Duty trumpets in stock Jun 29th 1895: 3521- 6480 (with gaps)

Coach & post horns in stock Jun 29th 1895: 1912-9483 (with large gaps)
 Drums in stock Jun 29th 1895: prices but no serial numbers
 Drum heads, drum cords, cases, sticks, cardholders, batons, iron folding stands, in stock Jun 29th 1895: prices but no serial numbers.
 Pianofortes & stools in stock Jun 29th 1895: prices but no serial numbers.
 Metronomes in stock Jun 29th 1895: prices
 Violins in stock Jun 30 1897: prices no serial numbers.
 Violins, violas, violoncellos & violin cases in stock Jun 29th 1895: prices no serial numbers.
 Double basses, bows in stock Jun 29th 1895: prices no serial numbers.
 Triangles, cymbals in stock Jun 29th 1895: prices no serial numbers.
 Strings in stock Jun 29th 1895: prices no serial numbers.
Clarinets: 3872-4226
 Second hand brass instruments in stock Jun 29th 1896: prices no serial numbers.
 Second hand brass instruments in stock Jun 29th 1898: prices no serial numbers.
 Second hand brass instruments in stock Jun 29th 1907: prices no serial numbers.
 Reed in stock Jun 29th 1895 & second hand [1919] (p266): prices no serial numbers.
 Sundries in stock Jun 29th 1895: prices no serial numbers.
 Leatherwork: prices no serial numbers.
 14 Jul 1881 - c.1917

2 Rudall Carte Stock 1 (E82.175) A227/147

Date, description, cost / stock value, makes, number, selling price, date sold, purchaser. Some listed by serial number other entries show stock taking information. Indexed

Gold & silver cylinder flutes 1869-1870, 3 letter codes. [Gold & silver cylinder flutes 1869-1870, 3 letter codes. (continued from p80, letters t and r & a dominate the sequence instead of c)].

Cocoa cylinder flutes serial number: 391-533 (with gaps) & 6542

Plated cylinder flutes, letter codes.

Cheap cylinder flutes: serial number: 434-514 (with gaps)

Conical flutes: improved fingerings, serial number: 59-6614 (with large gaps)

Ordinary conical concert flutes: 5 & 6482-6681 (with gaps)

Second hand ordinary conical concert flutes: 33, 114, 284, 402, 6576-6642 (with gaps)

Second hand ordinary conical concert flutes: 106... & 2369-6527 (with gaps)

Finished small flutes: 4, 111-749, ...6575 (with gaps)

Clarinets: 42... , 530-5, 12086, 553-7, 3391-3830 (with gaps)

Oboes: 7- 9, 134, 501-517 (with gaps)

Bassoons: 1,7, 14, 100... 320-330, 656, 998-9, 10183, 16234 & 16240 (with gaps)

Saxophones: 588-960, 16245 (with gaps)

Sarrusophones: 425, 1262-1891 (with gaps)

Cornets: 2...2021 (with gaps)

Sopranos without cases: 56... 1906 (with gaps)
 Contraltos: 12-1360 (with gaps)
 Flugel horns: 6-1557, 1966-1968 (with gaps)
 Bugles: 10-400, 1192-2007 (with gaps)
 Trumpets: 8, 75, 1368-2005 (with gaps)
 Tenor horns: 1 11-90, 719-1993, 3588 (with gaps)
 Trombones valve: 3-60, 163, 782-3067 (with gaps)
 Trombones inferior depreciated stock: 158, 522 (with gaps)
 Trombones slide (superior stock) 522-2060 (with gaps)
 Baritone horns: 1...23, 30, 518-1998 (with gaps)
 Euphonions: 1...10, 118, 606, 980-2062 (with gaps)
 Bombardons: 6-170, 758-2056 (with gaps)
 Ophicleide: 311
 French horns: 1-18, 755-1884, 2039-2053 (with gaps)
 Chromatic attachments for bugles: 1-8, 1447-1458, 1765-1766, 2002-2007, 2028-2027.
 Pianofortes: 101-4, 810-90259, (with large gaps)
 Cymbals: 1-23 & 46
 Drums: 100-103
 Violins: 2-12, 212-250 (with gaps)
 Violas: 7-9
 Violoncellos: 6, 13-17, 210, 300-302
 Guitars & banjos: 1-5, 460, 600-604, 2286.
 Concertinas: 1, 3, 216, 1131-16891, 11887 (with large gaps)
 Accordions: 3-6, 40.
 Metronomes: 1470-5, mainly unnumbered
 Band stands: 1-5, 15, mainly unnumbered
 B flat small flutes: 473-480, 485-496, 528-537
 Drum majors staffs and bells: only one entry
 Hunting horns: 1490-5, 1546-2054 (with gaps)
 B flat boxwood flutes: 464-580, 763-849 (with gaps)
 Miscellaneous: no numbers
 Cocoa & ebonite cylinder flutes: 392-883, 10498, 1543
 Cocoa concert flutes: 5, 318, 368, 2790, 6682-6708 (with gaps)
 Harps: 496, 1128, 1425, 2640, 3918, 4713
 Violoncello & contra basses: no numbers
 Flutes Radcliffs model: 18-151, 519, 6601-2, 6614 (with gaps)
 Flute flageolets: 637-1168 (with gaps)
 Oboes: 515-539, 1001, 1051.
 Bagpipes: 101-4
 Harmoniums: 1151, 1170, 2000, 5530-7131, 71282, 23196-23341 (with gaps)
 Pianos & harmoniums: 140-1, 585, 799-23372 (with large gaps)
 Field pipes: 1662-1675
 B flat clarionets: 0, 7, 9, 510, 534, 742, 782, 918, 1054-9, 1066-72, 1062-5, 3642-3826, 3800-3828
 E flat Flutes: 717-987, 1130-1, 6634
 F flutes: 538, 746-1115-86 (with gaps)
 Vocal horns: 1994-2038 (with gaps)
 B flutes: 850-1186 (with gaps)

D piccolos: 496, 654-1080 (with gaps)
 E flat piccolos: 946-1165 (with gaps)
 E flat piccolos: 750-1061 (with gaps)
 F piccolos: 904-1060 (with gaps)
 Regulation flat flutes: 1148-58, 1187-1211 (with gaps)
 Bass drums: no numbers
 Side drums: no numbers
 Co D piccolos: 867, 1066-1147
 Concertina: no numbers
 Pianofortes: 13505-47205 (with large gaps)
 Cocoa 8 keyed flutes: 6709-65
 Gold head joints: no numbers
 Kettle drums
 1869 - c.1877

3 **Vol. 2 (E82.176)** A227/148

Woodwind only.

Some listed by serial number other entries show stock taking information.

Date, description, serial number, maker, date, purchaser, place, price.

Index partly missing

Cocoa and ebonite modern flutes: 1085-2654

Modern second hand flutes: 3 letter codes and 91-7079

Second hand flutes: some without numbers & 13, 37, 72, 106, 115, 160, 247-7088 (with large gaps)

Modern flutes: 2308-3809.

Radcliff model flutes: 159-436

Old style concert flutes: 6847-7161, in stock on Jun 29th 1895, 7073-7312, 3689-3706, 7315-7358

B flat clarinets: 5165, 5471-5490,

New system piccolos: 1273-2099 (with gaps)

Modern piccolos in stock in Jun 29 1895: 2266-4132 (with gaps)

D piccolos: 1287-4069 (with some gaps)

E flat piccolos: 1288-4058 (with gaps)

F piccolos: 1300-3971 (with gaps)

Flageolets: 1926-3585 (with gaps)

Second hand piccolos (not modern): 1632-3096

F flutes: 660, 1200-4060, 7135-9 (with gaps)

E flat flutes: 1291-4014, 7144-8

B flat flutes: 1283-4014

Oboes & Cors Anglais: 542-912

Bassoons: 547-877

A clarinets: 3498, 3880-5578 (with gaps)

B flat clarinet: 3998-5522

C clarionets: 3887-5602 (with gaps)

E flat clarionets: 3937-5782 (with gaps)

Second hand clarionets & wood instruments: 549-784, 3436, 3614, 3920, 3950-5144 (with gaps)

Tenor & bass clarionets: 3912-5539 (with gaps)

Saxophones: 4886-5615 (with gaps)

Second hand flutes & piccolos (modern): 3 letter codes, 170, 172, 298, 394, 454... 7210 (with large gaps)

Silver cylinder flutes: 3 letter codes, a & d & m
1882 - c.1901

4 Vol. 3 woodwind only (E82.177) A227/149

Some listed by serial number other entries show stock taking information. Index many page numbers crossed out again. Date, description, serial number, maker, date, purchaser, place.

Modern flutes: 3810-6304

Conert flutes: 4431-5, 5204-9, 5267-5301, 6268, 7325-7525 (with gaps)

Second hand flutes & piccolos: some 3 letter codes, some named instruments, 19, 49, 126, 141... 7458, 18863, 19276 (with large gaps)

Radcliff model flutes: 437-633, 3968 from 1921 these flutes are numbered with modern flutes.

Modern piccolos: 4136-6916

Second hand clarinets etc some named instruments: 89, 512, 515, 538, 533, 557, 597, 632, 639, 647, 675, 692, 709, 713, 727, 743, 754, 763, 766, 810, 818, 826, 834, 844, 847, 854, 871, 873, 877, 882, 889, 895, 911-2, 915-6, 918, 935, 937, 941-2, 950, 955, 957, 959, 975, 985, 990, 994, 998, 1000, 1007-8, 1022, 1293, 1591, 1604, 3940, 3959, 4065-5949, 6246, 7702, 11799 (with gaps)

B flat flutes: 3284, 3416, 3878-6932 (with some gaps)

D piccolos: 4070-6918 (with gaps)

E flat piccolos: 4096-6933, 16421-37

F piccolos: 4264-5784 (with gaps)

F flutes: 2434, 2749, 3491, 3508, 3562-, 3570, 3788-6898 (with gaps)

E flat flutes: 4107-6872 (with gaps)

Oboes & cors Anglais: 925-1050

Tenor & bass clarinets: 4336-5996 (with gaps)

Bassoons: 781-1048, 6483, 46845-6

C clarinets: 3411, 4217-8, 4296, 4458, 4475-6, 4639-5460, 5620-5818 (with gaps)

A clarinets: 4811, 5123-6024 (with gaps)

B flat clarinets: 4200, 4209, 4245, 4370-6023 (with gaps)

Saxophones: 3609, 5536-6573 (with gaps)

1905 - c1922

5 Vol. 4 (E82.178) A227/150

Some listed by serial number other entries show stock taking information. Date, description, serial number, maker, cost, selling price, date, purchaser, place. Index modern flutes: 3438, 6026-7533 (with some gaps)

Concert flutes: 7369-7623 (with gaps)

E flat piccolos: 4023, 6239, 6246, 6463-7875, 16421, 16434 (with gaps)

E flat flutes: 3686, 6085-6266, 6546, 6800, 7009-8154 (with gaps)

F flutes: 2434, 3570, 4341, 5785-6211, 6433, 6698-7581 (with gaps)

D piccolos: 4028, 6260-8131 (with gaps)

B flat flutes: 4203, 4297-8150 (with gaps)

Cornets: 3347, 3992-3, 4807-7003 (with gaps)

Trumpets: 3530, 5697, 5829, 6488, 6610-6823
 Tenor horns: 1897, 4232, 4492, 4799, 4800-2, 5038, 6307-8, 6409-6706, 6947 (with gaps)
 Flugel horn: 5496, 5511, 5532
 Koenig horn: 4112
 Duty & state trumpet: 1601, 4081
 Coach & post horn: 1925, 1597, 3918, 3981, 4098, 6901, 6954
 Oboes: 1017-1079, 10360 (with gaps)
 Bassoon: 1057-1073, 46845, 46346 (with gaps)
 A clarinets: 3411, 4217, 5558, 5917-6203 (with gaps)
 B flat clarinets: 4370, 4384, 4552, 4734, 5173, 5250, 5869-6227 (with gaps)
 Recorders: 50-77
 C clarinets: 4296, 5271-2, 5620, 6064-6153 (with gaps)
 E flat clarinets: 4156, 4527-4742, 4909, 5185, 5266, 5268, 5395 (with gaps)
 Saxophones: 5652-5655, 6692-6997 (with gaps)
 Tenor & bass clarinets: 4336, 4487, 5208-9 (with gaps)
 Baritones: 4426, 5033-4, 6474-6643 (with gaps)
 French horns: 5904-5, 6536-7, 6786-7, 6918, 6946, 6963-4
 Trombones: 3330, 4472, 4717, 4779, 5513, 6432-6939, 6974, 6993
 Euphoniums: 6412-6859
 Bombardons: 3605, 3754, 4195, 4765, 4775, 4948, 4953, 5776, 6285-6444, 6642, 6729-30
 Duty bugles: 6354, 6597, 6603-6910 (with gaps)
 Second hand flutes & piccolos wood, brass instruments: 19, 53, 84, 98, 126, 164-5, 213-1883, 2021, 2102-7522, 11128, 21089, 22014, 27699, 66813, 98291 (with large gaps)
 F piccolos: 7352, 7527
 E flat piccolos: 4023, 6239, 7385-8135 (with gaps)
 Trumpets: 6831-7013 (with gaps)
 E flat flutes: 3686, 6085-6126, 6800, 7042-7158, 7538-7744, 7909-8154, 75830 (with gaps)
 F flutes: 2434, 3570, 4341, 5788-9, 6652, 6699, 6700, 6704, 7002, 7693-7828, 8005-8162 (with gaps)
 Concert flutes: 7538-7623 (with gaps)
 G flutes: 7642, 7654-6
 Bugles: 6911-7016 (with gaps)
 Modern flutes: 6469, 6563, 6707-8016 (with gaps)
 Modern piccolos: 6869, 7863-7 (with gaps)
 Second hand instruments: 169, 219, 564, 985-1025, 1859[0], 3004-3543, 4047, 5177, 5318, 6109, 6550-7019, 7202- 7466, 7625, 7874, 41350, 59310, 59840, 70263 (with gaps)
 1924 - c.1928

6 Vol. 5 (E82.179) A227/151

Some listed by serial number other entries show stock taking information.
 Date, description, serial number, maker, date, purchaser, place. Index
 Modern flutes: 6105, 6207, 6282-6624, 6647, 6826-8053 (with gaps)
 Concert flutes: 7369, 7470, 7502-7528, 7534, 7546, 7548-50, 7622-3

Modern piccolos: 6563, 6886-7308, 7469, 7630, 7674, 7965- 8080, 8242, 8390, 8402-9136 (with gaps)

B flat flutes: 3686, 4203, 4297, 6085-6545, 6800-7327, 7543-9132, 17832, 17836 (with gaps)

F flutes: 2434, 3570, 4341, 4396, 5785-91, 6024, 6208-6898, 7002-7315, 7695-7822, 8120-9117 (with gaps)

D piccolos: 4028, 6259-6460, 6917-7282, 7536, 7774-7869, 7981-8063, 8208-8289, 8405-8870, 9065, 9135 (with gaps)

Flageolet: 8595

G flutes: 8612

E flat piccolos: 4023, 6237-6246, 6463, 6468, 6669-6716, 6953-7309, 7402, 7839-9135, 16421, 16434 (with gaps)

F piccolos: 7048-9, 8473, 8483

Second hand modern flutes piccolos etc: 3 letter codes, named instruments, 18, 19, 42, 98-1491, 1530[5], 1540-3797, 3901-8176, 8649-8689, 8867-9136, 9545- 9774, 10092-10253, 10462, 10640, 11127, 11718-12306, 12637, 12846, 13200, 13236, 13785, 14316, 14684, 1468[4], 14748, 14906, 14989, 15170, 15178 [8 crossed out and replaced by 0], 15289-90, 15305, 15413, 16250, 17067, 18024, 18533, 18949, 19290, 19311A, 19370, 19371B, 19552, 19983, 20123, 20363, 20464, 20609, 21037, 21133, 21487, 21559, 22354, 22761, 22434, 22849, 22891, 22900, 23228, 23377, 23595, 23998, 25526, 25536, 25708, 25920, 26358, 27026, 27451, 28017- 28236, 28876, 28920, 29309-29430, 30110- 30206, 30806, 31171- 3280[1], 3307[4], 33282, 33796, 34446, 34715, 3489[4], 34957- 35356, 35879, 36045, 36070, 36237, 36947, 37545, 38275, 38624, 39195, 39550, 40470, 41446, 41681, 41686, 42123, 42203, 42456-4357[3], 44533, 46216, 46992, 47161, 47355, 48952, 49845, 4984[6], 5061[3], 50696, 51087, 55981, 56141- 57371, 57614, 58413, 58475, 58875, 59010, 59032, 59237, 59625, 59673, 59841, 6109[0], 61761, 62132, 62473- 62532, 62586[?], 63742, 64331, 65641, 65661, 65926, 66321, 66813, 67390, 68060, 68395, 68907, 6896[4], 69214-69276, 69758- 69949, 70263, 72411, 73037, 73891, 74102, 76250, 78741, 78902, 79827, 94056, 98291 (with gaps)

Second hand wood instruments: 165, 512, 515, 632, 843- 854, 1712, 4639, 4778, 4804, 5034, 5156, 5663, 5910, 5912, 21089, 22014

Oboes: 1017-1100, 10360 (with gaps)

Saxophones: 5621, 5652-5, 6521, 6647, 6662-3, 6687-6695, 6709-6731, 6854-6920, 7756, 7774-5, 7830, 8339 (with gaps)

Flageolets: 83

Cor anglais: 1084, 1087

Recorders: 78-97, 800 (with gaps)

A clarinets: 3411, 4217, 5558, 5917-19, 5939, 5980-6316 (with gaps)

Tenor & bass clarinet: 4336, 4487, 5208-9, 5996

C clarinets: 4218, 4296, 4639, 5213, 5271-2, 5620, 6064, 6248, 6268, 6308

E flat clarinet: 4156, 4527, 4613, 4643, 4694-9, 4739-42, 4909, 5185, 5263, 5266, 5395, 6249, 6257 (with gaps)

B flat clarinets: 4370, 4384, 4552, 4734, 5173, 5250, 5869, 5916, 5932-5976, 5977, 5980, 5989, 5999, 6000-6066, 6090-3, 6111-17, 6127-6129,

6133-7, 6142-4, 6152-6177, 6188-9, 6205-6254, 6271, 6250-6319, (with gaps)

F flutes: 2434, 3570, 4341, 4396, 7002, 7795, 8349-8350, 8522-8530, 8610, 8630-4, 8815-8827, 8889-8891, 8926-8937, 8998-9050, 9063, 9106-9117, (with gaps)

Bassoon: 843, 1073, 1080, 1081, 1098-9, 1101-2, 46346, 46845-6

B flat flutes: 4297, 6451, 6992, 7127, 8428, 8505, 8514, 8695, 8726-8778, 8791-8796, 8801, 8829-8864, 8892-4, 8901-8925, 8945-8997, 9020-9062, 9081-9104, 9122-9133, (with gaps)

Bugles: 7062, 7077, 7089, 7005-7037, 7049-7077, 7089-7111, 7123-7159 (with gaps)

Cornets: 3993, 4807-4811, 4833, 5629, 5639, 6436-6456, 6558, 6671-6, 6714-15, 6758, 6778-6883, 7002-3, 7025-7044, 7051, 7079-81 (with gaps)

Trumpets: 3530, 5697, 5829, 6488, 6795, 6838, 6904, 6933, 6955-7048, 7058, 7078-7085, 7112-7122, 7139, 7160-1, 7207, 7624 (with gaps)

Flugel horns: 5496, 5511, 5532

Koenig horns: 4112

Duty & state trumpets: 4081

Coach & post horns: 1597, 1925, 7059, 7086-8, 7103 (with gaps)

Baritones: 4426, 5033-4, 6474-8, 6561-6565 (with gaps)

French horns: 6536, 6786-7, 6963-4, 7096, 7124 (with gaps)

Tenor horns: 4232, 4799-4802, 5038, 6308, 6409, 6457-8, 6460-62, 6672, 6485, 6491-2, 6686, 6705-6

Coach & post horns: 7116-7121, 7059, 7137-8

Trombones: 3330, 4472, 5513, 6381-2, 6433, 6465-6469, 6707-8, 6833-4, 6934-39, 6993, 7046-7, 7098-7102, 7112-13 (with gaps)

Euphoniums: 5401, 6412-15, 6486-7, 6517-18, 6689-90, 6710-11, 6858-9

Bombardons: 3754, 4195, 4765, 5776, 6285, 6333, 6343-4, 6444, 6642, 6729-30, 6966, 7083, 7095, 7146-7

1921 - c.1943

4.2 STOCK BOOKS

- 1 **RCW Stock Book I 1962-64 (E82.166)** A227/153
Looseleaf, separated into flute types. Lists date, invoice, description, serial number, unit cost, customer, prices. 1962-64
- 2 **RCM Stock Book II 65-69 (E82.167)** A227/154
Looseleaf, separated into flute types. Lists date, reference, cost, serial number, DN [number], invoice, date, sale price. Bulk 1966-9.
- 3 **RC WW 70/71 (E82.168)** A227/155
Looseleaf, separated into flute types. Lists date, reference, cost, serial number, DN [number], invoice, date, sale price. 1969-74
- 4 **RCW Stock Book [No label] (E82.169)** A227/156

Looseleaf, separated into flute types. Lists date, reference, cost, serial number, DN [number], invoice, date, sale price. 1973-76

- 5 **Woodwind 1978 (E82.170)** A227/157
Looseleaf, separated into flute types etc. Lists consignment number & in date, instrument no, finish [instrument type], customer, invoice number, date of invoice. 1978-80 & some 1981.
- 6 **Woodwind (E82.171)** A227/158
Looseleaf, sorted in catalogue number order. Lists consignment number & in date, instrument no, finish [instrument type], customer, invoice number, date of invoice. Sales are of many makes of instrument, and the pages are filed by make and model. 1984-85
- 7 **1962 1968 MFG register (E82.172)** A227/159
Lists stock and sales of Rudall Carte flutes only. Loose sheet under tab alto 71. Date, details, job, maker, number, completed, invoice, date ref. 1967-71
- 8 **RCW Stock Book II (E82.165)** A227/160
Lists stocks of materials (such as silver) and parts for instrument. Looseleaf, sections S2-17 & S24-34. 1963-72
- 9 **'Design R.C. N.M.' (E82.173)** A227/161
Rudall Carte design book from Robert Bigio. Showing also a red and a yellow round sticker, looseleaf. Technical specifications for tuning of flutes, sketches of keys, headjoints, embouchure plates, etc. c. 1965. Included are two notes: 'From Robert Bigio 14-xi-2003' and 'John Wick's hand – worked for Rudall Carte from the 1950s; family firm [?] of Henry Stark'.

4.3 MISCELLANEOUS BOOK

- 1 **Notebook (E82.180)** A227/163
Apparently maintained by the firm's technical director, with inserted loose pages. The latter include a letter from Richard Shepherd Rockstro giving details on how to tune his model of flute, an important document [not found 23/12/2004, name is mentioned though]. The notebook lists potential workmen identified in France and Belgium. The firm was clearly struggling to recruit capable men. Some of those head-hunted did become employees, and are mentioned in later *Work Books*. List of subscribers to leaflets for songs, voices Fl & Pf. c1882 - 1907.
- 2 **Rudall Carte papers c. 1960s (E82.181)** A227/164
1 loose sheet casting x ref tab. 2 loose sheets cycl picc I tab. 5 loose sheets after treble flute tab. 1 loose sheet bass flute tab. 1 loose sheet heads tab. 2 loose sheets after wood times tab.

5. BESSON & CO ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS (1868-1968)

5.1 STOCK BOOKS

The books have not survived in which Besson & Co recorded the instruments ordered and the allocation of serial numbers (a series analogous to the Distin & Co "Work Shop Order Books" can be assumed). What remains in the B & H archive is incomplete but nonetheless informative. These record the instruments as completed: a brief description, the date added to stock, plating, engraving, case, date of sale and the name of the purchaser.

Two sequences of serial numbers were used, one for valved instruments and one for slide trombones. In the case of the valved instruments, the serial numbers of surviving instruments (stamped on the piston casing) accord with the stock book entries. Fewer Besson slide trombones survive from the period 1875-1895: not all bear serial numbers, but those which do correspond to the stock book entries. The manufacturing details are written in French (even the later entries), also sales details for British and export customers. It would appear that common serial number sequences may have been used for Besson production in Paris and London up to the point where the London factory passed into British ownership and separated from the French Besson firm (1895).

The stock books give details of the date, model (e.g. Desideratum), plating, engraving, case, and the name of the purchaser.

By piecing together the data in these books it will be possible to reconstruct the two serial number sequences for valved and slide instruments to a good approximation. Since before 31 Mar 1871 the stock book entries were made in order of delivery from the workshop, they are not in serial number order. The time taken to complete some batches could be weeks or months longer than other batches close in serial number.

- 1 **Cornets stock book (E82.40)** A227/167
[previously described as: Besson "Cornets No. 8" stock book 1868 - Apr 1873] [This label is no longer present, see E82.43].
Serial numbers 9009 - 14395 (some earlier) 27 Jan 1868 - 31 Mar 1871
Serial numbers 9009 - 11885 in sale date order 31 Mar 1871 - Apr 1873
Serial numbers 11886 - 14395 in serial number order [13122-33 are not missing entries], c27 Jan 1868 - Nov 1873.
- 2 **Cornet stock book (E82.41)** A227/168
Serial numbers 15693 – 17632 Front cover, 17556-67 (on page 1), initial signatures/pages missing 14396-15692 and 16131-44 apparently missing (14 numbers = 2 sides) [15821-34, 16382-405, 16474-83 are not missing entries], Feb 1874 - Nov 1875.
- 3 **'Cornets No. 7' stock book (E82.42)** A227/169

Serial numbers 38051 – 42988 apparently complete [39765-86, 39997-40001, 40032-71, 40501-10 are not missing entries], 18 Oct 1887 – 30 Oct 1889.

- 4 **‘Cornet No. 8’ stock book (E82.43)** A227/170
[Previously listed as: Besson cornet stock book Oct 1889 - Oct 1891. There was no mention of label no 8, see E82.40].
Serial numbers 42989 – 47120 Front was cover missing [?], otherwise apparently complete [44415-46, 44519-52, 44637-50, 44790-809, 44977-94, 45007-37, 46935-44, 46957-62 are not missing entries], 14 Oct 1889 - Oct 1891.
- 5 **‘Basses No. 3’ stock book (E82.44)** A227/171
Serial numbers 41259 – 65748 main sequence apparently complete; Victory models 58450-63266 not present [42776-812, 44792-845, 45213-41, 47953-58, 48393-510, 49224-305, 49672-728, 50862-79, 51004-15, 51349-76, 51732-59, 54422-31, 54596-663, 56273-343, 56860-905, 57164-300, 59213-45, 61588-617, 64834-925 are not missing entries], 2 May 1889 – 11 Mar 1899.
- 6 **‘Contrebasses No. 3’ stock book (E82.45)** A227/172
Serial numbers 33324 – 52759, apparently complete [36354-65, 36621-702, 42248-53, 45088-133, 46045-56, 47696-765, 49874-904, 50821-67, 51485-520, 51989-96, 52338-79, 52619-97 are not missing entries], 18 Sep 1883 – 3 Nov 1893.
- 7 **‘F.B. & Co / Trombones / No. 2’ stock book (E82.46)** A227/173
Serial numbers 673 – 2163 apparently complete, 6 Jun 1875 – 22 Sep 1886.
- 8 **‘Trombones à Coulisses No. 3’ stock book (E82.47)** A227/174
Serial numbers 2166 – 4514 apparently complete, 22 Sept 1886 – 22 Apr 1895.

5.2 STAMPING BOOK

- 1 **‘Stamping Besson Instrument Book’ (E82.48)** A227/176
In date order, lists date, generator, instrument, part no, description, pitch, job card and quantity, 11 Mar 1948 – 25 Oct 1954.

This covers the period from March 1948, when manufacture of Besson branded instruments moved from the old Stanhope Place factory to the Boosey & Hawkes plant at Edgware, up to October 1954 when the Besson serial number sequence was discontinued and instrument stamped with the Besson name were given serial numbers in the Boosey & Hawkes sequence. It was from this time that distinct B&H and Besson models were replaced by common models. For example, a "Besson" *Westminster* model trombone of the 1960s differed only in engraving from the B & H *Regent* model.

Includes mention of "Desideratum" cornets.

Valved instruments: serial numbers 135118 – 146292, 11 Mar 1948 - 25 Oct 1954. Trombones: serial numbers 15083 – 17207, 11 Mar 1948 - 13 Oct 1954.

5.3 MINUTE BOOKS

The Chairman of the Board from 1895 to 1912 was Stratten Boulnois. A prominent Board member was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who chaired at least one Board meeting c1917.

The Directors' *Minute Books* contain interesting industrial history. An example of this is the successful measures to resist trade union demands in 1913 for higher wages, and for the same wages to be paid to all employees regardless of levels of skill and experience. The minutes, and an enclosed letter to the Salvation Army, describe how Besson & Co formed an alliance with their main competitors in London, Hawkes & Son and Boosey & Co, to agree a common response (a lock-out of union members) in the event of industrial action. (The Boosey & Co *Instrument Books* show that wage levels remained low until 1918.)

Another interesting episode is Besson's trouble with their United States agents, Carl Fischer, who (according to the *Minute Books*) over-priced Besson instruments to the point at which the larger instruments were unsaleable in the U.S., did not have the capacity to handle coast-to-coast distribution, and were guilty of using Besson tradenames such as "Prototype" for instruments by other makers.

- 1 **Shareholder Meeting Minutes (E82.49)** A227/178
Index in the front. Papers between p199 & 200 marked Besson & Co Ltd description of plant sent to Edgware Road factory are loose, rest of the inserts are attached. Includes correspondence with Boosey & Hawkes concerning the transfer of manufacture of Besson instruments to Edgware in 1948. One factor in the decision to transfer manufacture to Boosey & Hawkes was the imminent expiry of the lease of factory premises at Frederick Mews from Boosey & Hawkes (1954).
13 Oct 1932 – 27 Mar 1957
- 2 **'Besson & Co., Limited Directors' Minute Book' (E82.50)** A227/179
Loose papers in the front cover advertising shares (1 Aug 1895) and a letter (24 Oct 1895) re to sale of Besson and its withdrawal because of a litigation. 1 Aug 1895 – 30 Dec 1898.
- 3 **'Besson & Co., Limited Directors' Minute Book' (E82.51)** A227/180
Index in the front. 20 Dec 1898 – 15 May 1902
- 4 **'Besson & Co., Limited Directors' Minute Book' (E82.52)** A227/181

Index in the front. 3 Loose pages after minutes re to 17 Feb 1910 pages marked 2-3, also a blank sheet. 23 Aug 1906 – 14 Mar 1912

- 5 **'Besson & Co., Limited Directors' Minute Book' (E82.53)** A227/182
Index in the front. 14 Mar 1912 – 8 Nov 1917
- 6 **'Besson & Co., Limited Directors' Minute Book' (E82.54)** A227/183
Loose in the front paper marked copy / temporary / injunction / Fisher.
(21 Dec 1897). 26 Oct 1917- 10 Aug 1932.
- 7 **'Besson & Co., Ltd / 198 Euston Road, London, N.W.'**
(E82.60)A227/184
List of Addresses of Shareholders in Besson & Co Ltd
Addresses Jun 1913 – c1915
Includes list of attendees at annual general meetings, 11 Aug 1913 – 26 Aug 1915 & 24 Aug 1916 - 29 Jul 1966.
List of shareholders 1 Mar 1916.

5.4 FINANCIAL BOOKS (Shareholders)

(See also miscellaneous financial books)

- 1 **'Besson & Company / Limited / Register of Members, / ordinary shares / register of members, preference shares / register of transfers / Annual list' (E82.55)** A227/186
Index in front. Bulk 15 August 1895 – 1913
Ordinary shares 15 August 1895 – 16 Sep 1942
Preference shares 15 Aug 1895 - 23 Jan 1931 [bulk up to 1913]
Register of transfers, 8 Oct 1896 - 28 Dec 1905
Annual list (Company Act Form E information), 10 Dec 1895 – 12 Sep 1904.
- 2 **'Besson & Company / Limited / Register of Members/ ordinary shares / register of members / preference shares / No 2' (E82.56)**
A227/187
Index in front. 12 Oct 1899 - 16 Sep 1942
Ordinary shares 12 Oct 1899 - 16 Sep 1942
Preference shares 12 Oct 1899 - 16 Sep 1942
- 3 **'Besson & Company / Limited / Register of Members/ ordinary shares / register of members / preference shares / No 3' (E82.57)**
A227/188
Index in front.
Ordinary shares 1931 – 16 Sep 1942
Preference shares 16 Aug 1923 - 16 Sep 1942
- 4 **'Besson & Company Limited / Register of Mortgages / debenture holders ledger / register of transfers / register of drawings / numerical register / summary' (E82.58)** A227/189

Loose papers after cover 11 sheets on interest on debentures (1903-7) 4
notification letters of payments to be made (1905-6) 4 folded.

Index in the front (not complete).

Debenture holders ledger 29 Dec 1898 – 22 Jun 1907

Register of transfers 29 Dec 1898 – 29 Jun 1907

Register of drawings 23 Nov 1899 – 22 Jun 1907

Numerical register 21 Nov 1900 – 22 Nov 1907

Summary

- 5 **'Besson & Company Limited / register of transfers / Annual list'**
(E82.59) A227/190
register of transfers 1 Feb 1906 – 1 Jul 1968
Annual list (Company Act Form E information) 12 Sep 1906 - 9 Sep 1915
Showing final complete transfer of shares to Boosey & Hawkes
1 Jul 1968.
- 6 **'Besson Co., Limited / Preference and Ordinary Dividends' (E82.61)**
A227/191
ref to folio in share ledger, name, Alphabetic list, no of shares, value,
dividend, tax deducted, amount paid, bankers 1 Jan 1912 - 30 Jun 1940
- 7 **'Besson & Co Limited / ordinary shares / certificates / 1-250'**
(E82.65) A227/192
7 Jul 1913 – 29 Mar 1951
- 8 **Besson Loose Share Certificates (E82.66)** A227/193
Label: Old certificat[es] for exchange Jun 19[?] ...
Approximately 2/3 right-hand corner removed. c1914-1950.
- 9 **Besson Loose transfers of Share Certificates (E82.68)** A227/194
Share transfers c1937-66 and transfer forms when Boosey & Hawkes
completed the purchase of Besson & Co in 1967[?].
- 10 **'Seal Book / Beeson & Co Ltd / 198 Euston Rd / London / N.W'.**
(E82.69) A227/195
Recording the use of the company seal for share certificate and other
important transactions. Among the latter are the lease of factory premises
at Frederick Mews from Boosey Trust Ltd (commencing 29 Sep 1933)
and the sale of C. Wheatstone & Co. Ltd assets (October 1943).
25 Jan 1912 – 1 Jul 1968
- 11 **'Dividend Account Book' (E82.62)** A227/196
Preference Shares: Alphabetic list, bank details, no of shares, ref to folio
in share ledger, value, amount of dividend, income tax, net amount paid
30 Jun 1943- 31 Dec 1965
- 12 **'Dividend Account Book' (E82.63)** A227/197
Ordinary Shares Alphabetic list, bank details, no of shares, ref to folio in
share ledger, value, amount of dividend, income tax, net amount paid 30
Jun 1943- 31 Dec 1965

- 13 **'Dividend Account Book' (E82.64)** A227/197
Ordinary & preference shares 31 Dec 1966
In front cover summary of register of members (4 Aug 1967), yearly sales figures (1958-1967), 4 sheets on inter-departmental communications (1967) Besson & Co Ltd. Inserted loose papers between page 2 and 3 show 1967 dividends figures.
- 14 **'Private Ledger Besson & Co Limited' (E82.74)** A227/199
Year-end figures. Balance sheets, trading, profit & loss, expenses for plant London, Manchester & Newcastle, share capital, etc. 1895 - 1918.
- 15 **'Private Ledger Besson & Co. Ltd' (E82.75)** A227/200
Year-end figures. Balance sheets, trading, profit & loss, expenses for plant, share capital, etc. 30 June 1919 - 30 June 1942. [It was not possible to dismantle the lock].
- 16 **'Private Journal Besson & Co. Ltd' (E82.76)** A227/201
6 months accounts. Expenses include goods purchased, wages, travel, exhibition expenses, profits and losses, etc. 1 June 1895 - 30 June 1918.
- 17 **'Private Journal Besson & Co. Ltd' (E82.78)** A227/202
6 months accounts. Expenses for materials, manufacturing processes, war bonus, peace bonus, expenses for utilities, NHS, reservists' wives, lists value of assets such as instruments. 30 June 1919 - 1962.
- 18 **'Besson & Co Ltd' (E82.70)** A227/203
Ledger
Looseleaf, financial transactions alphabetically by supplier. Also includes F Besson SARL Paris, various Boosey & Hawkes companies and Rudall Carte & Co Ltd under tab XYZ. Date, to and by, code, amount. Jan 1960 - Dec 1963

5.5 MISCELLANEOUS BOOK

- 1 **Presentation book in box (E82.79)** A227/205
Presented to Charles E. Timms (managing director of Besson & Co) on his retiring from the Association of Musical Instrument Industries. Presented 14 May 1952 and containing signatures of prominent members.

6. BESSON (PARIS) ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS (1941-1972)

6.1 STOCK BOOK

- 1 **'Stock Book' (E82.163)** A227/208
Stock of brass instruments in chronological rather than serial number order, written in French. Serial numbers: 86825 – 103908, Feb 1966 – c Jan 1972.

6.2 MISCELLANEOUS BOOK

- 1 **'Repair Work Book 29' (E82.164)** A227/210
Details of repairs to brass instruments in chronological order, written in French, client names included. Dec 1941 - Oct 1958

7 FINANCIAL BOOKS (miscellaneous) (1942-1985)

- 1 The Southbury Engineering Co Ltd
Bound book of Share Certificates (E82.67)**
Some certificates no longer have the right-hand corner removed. At the top of the certificates is added Boosey & Hawkes Engineers Ltd. Boosey & Hawkes owned 95,000 of the 100,000 shares in the end.
1942-1957
- 2 Edware Group Capital expenditure (E82.33)**
Spine title: Minute Book. Paper spine label visible for only a small part "...pe...", gives details of purchases of machinery etc. Listing capital expenditure, 28 Jan 1964 - 5 Nov 1980.
- 3 Edware Group Private Journal [inscribed inside cover] (E82.160)**
A227/214
'Day book DD8' details various payments. [Loose sheet between p325-6, 339-40, 340-1 also a small note, loose sheet between p343-4 and also a small note, loose sheet between p717-18]. 1 Jan 1972 - 31 Dec 1981.
- 4 British Band Instrument Co Ltd
'Journal' (E82.161) A227/215**
Monthly figures (Feb 1965 - 31 Dec 1971). Figures on Hammond Organ (UK) Ltd, B.B.I. Co Ltd. Balance sheet figures working back from the end of the book (Dec 1965 - Dec 1968). 3 Feb 1965 to 31 Dec 1971.
- 5 'Private Ledger' (E82.72) A227/216**
Written on cover in ink: Salaries & Wages 1944. Inscribed in front cover with 'Drumcraft Ltd'. Scrap paper attached to the front cover is on Besson & Co Ltd headed paper. Includes headings for Boosey & Hawkes, Besson & Co (c1944-59), Besson & Co Ltd (c1944-59), C. Wheatstone (1944-51), Rudall Carte Co Ltd (1946). Includes war work and government related contracts. Shows short profits and loss entries (general) (1944-1962), expenses paid for rent, salaries incl directors' remuneration, insurance, taxes, etc. p188-193: drums (1944-8), p194-6 Musical instruments (1949-51), p208-211 xylophones (1944-48), p220 mouthorgans (1944-8). Tools, trading & profit & loss account (1944-59). 1944 - c1962.
- 6 Ledger (E82.77) A227/217**
Contains monthly accounts for transactions with other firms in the trade relating instrument cases, etc. Only later in the ledger it becomes clear that the word cases has been left out. The prices are such that the earlier entries have to be cases as well. Ledger could be from a supplier to Boosey & Hawkes [?] which could possibly have been taken over.
Jan 1961 - Mar 1966