

Amati

Czech Republic

One purpose for creating this history of Amati is that many instruments show up in the US under another name, but were actually made by Amati. Another is that some of their instruments were well made and still collected today.

- 1840 The first instrument making factories were started in Grazlitz, the German name for a small village in the border region of Sudetenland (Amati).
- 1867 Graslitz became part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
- 1900 The area now had eleven factories and employed 300 workers in the instrument business (Amati). One of the largest was Bohland & Fuchs (see separate history section), who provided many of the cheap import stencils sold in the US.
- 1919 Instruments were now marked "Czechoslovakia" following the independence of this region. Older instruments were marked "Austria".
- Between the wars: The musical instrument business grew to 59 makers including B&F, Huller & Co, AK Huttel, Julius Keilwerth, and many others.
- 1938 Germany took over this area and instruments may be marked "Germany" from this time.
- 1945 The Amati cooperative was formed on October 17 from many of the makers in the area (Gazarek, 2008).
- 1947 The Communists took over the country and many brass instrument makers left or were removed. They nationalized Amati under state control. [I read a post on a trumpet site that the Communist-era brass were made from recycled Soviet artillery shells and may contain lead and mercury.]
- 1980 An undated catalog from this era included Bb & Eb cornets, Bb, C, Bass, and Aida trumpets, a Fluegelhorn, and Bb valve or slide trombones. The trumpets included the Sirius 2, Festival, Excelent [their spelling], and Excelent Super models. The trombones included the Arion, Leader, and Leader Super models (Horn-U-Copia.net).
- 1990 Communism ended with Amati eventually moving to private ownership (Amati).

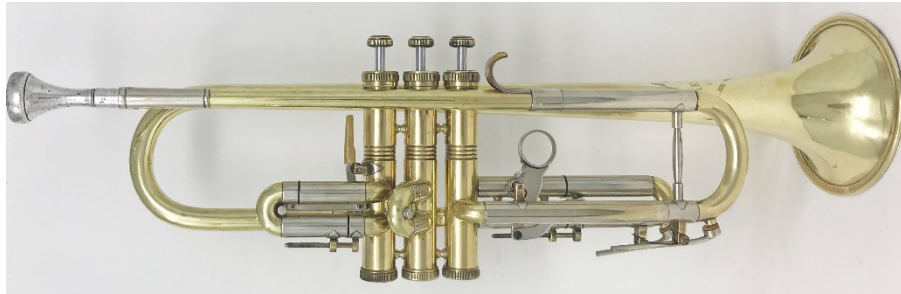


1993 Slovakia separated and Amati becomes Amati-denak in October under the Czech Republic (Amati.sk). [denak = Kraslice brass instruments] [Kraslice is the Czech pronunciation of Graslitz.]

2008 Amati was the largest brass maker in Europe (Gazarek).

2012 Amati became part of Geneva Group UK (Gazarek), who helped to save them from bankruptcy (Amati).

This Arioso Super trumpet (top right & below) was from c.1970 (author's photos).



Typical Amati serial number and location



Amati DeLuxe trumpet (below & 2nd at right)



Amatis were also sold under the Lignatone brand (right).

