

Bohland & Fuchs

Graslitz, Austria / Czechoslovakia

- 1850 Gustav Bohland (1825-1886) (photo 1) starts his instrument business in Graslitz (photo 2)
- 1861 Bohland exhibits in London
- 1870 Bohland is joined by Martin Fuchs (1831-1893) (photo 3) to form B&F at a larger factory (photo 4) (*New Langwill Index*); this was the former Johann Kostler Harmonic Works at #354 Langen Gasse (Long Lane) (Trumpet-History)
- 1873 B&F exhibits in Wien (*NLI*)
- 1886 Bohland dies leaving Fuchs as sole owner; other family members involved were sons Johann (1852-1905) (photo 5), Daniel (1853-1938) and Hermann (1856-1921)
- 1888 B&F exhibits in Philadelphia (*NLI*)
- 1891 B&F builds a “Doublephon” invented by F. Besson (photo below from Horn-u-copia.net)
- 1892 B&F exhibits in Wien & Chicago (*NLI*)
- 1893 Martin dies leaving Johann in charge of the financial end and Hermann in charge of the factory (*Music Trade Review*, 1905)
- 1905 Johann dies and leaves his eldest son Karl (1884-1964) (photo 1 next page) in charge (*MTR*, 1905)
- 1907 B&F opens a branch in London (*NLI*); they were moving to a new factory by September 1 (*MTR*) (photo next page)
- 1912 B&F has a workforce of 200 and is the first factory in Austria with steam power and mass production; they build a sub-contrabass tuba (*NLI*) which was described in the 1928 *Music Trade Review* as in BBb, 4 rotary valves, 50” bell, 110” high and weighing 200 lbs
- 1914 B&F factory is shown in a *MTR* article (below)



- 1919 the Treaty of Versailles created Czechoslovakia which included Graslitz; this changed the country of origin marking on B&F instruments
- 1920 B&F builds the Alschausky model double trombone (*NLI*)
- 1925 B&F has a workforce of 500 (*NLI*); the William R. Gratz Import Co, New York, has been a B&F dealer since 1885 (*MTR*, December)
- 1938 Germany takes over Czechoslovakia; this may change the instrument marking to Germany or Bohemia
- 1945 Graslitz becomes Kraslice as part of the new Czech Republic; B&F ends and most Germans are removed from the country; instrument production becomes nationalized under Amati

Instrument Markings:

1. Early instruments have a script logo on the trim ring (photo 3) or bell (photo 4).
2. They next change to a stamped name (photo 5)
3. This stamped design then adds the “B anchor F” (photo 6)
4. Later markings change the stamped name to engraved (below)



5. Other instruments can have an applied badge which often have the name of the retailer such as Volkwein Bros or Pittsburg (photo 1).



Markings on Imports:

The majority of instruments imported to the US do not have the B&F name on them. They may have been sold through Wm R Gratz in New York to retailers across the country who then added their own name on the bell. These are called stencil horns and many retailers who wanted an inexpensive horn with their name on it did this. There are four markings that I have come across so far that all point to B&F.

1. The easiest marking to identify is “B&F” on the middle valve and usually “Austria”, “Bohemia” or “Czechoslovakia” marked on the lead pipe inlet. (photo 1)
2. Some have just a small anchor stamped on the middle valve
3. Some instruments have a small circle with three tabs stamped on the middle valve (photo 2); I found at least one with this mark on the right side and the B&F on the left
4. Cornets often have a number on the middle valve below the valve number which may indicate a model (photo 4). Since there are so many more cornets than other horns I will attempt to cover here many that have been found in order to help identify B&F as the maker.

Cornets:

Numbered cornets:

- #1 Only one found so far which has “Austria” on the inlet (photos 3 & 4, author’s collection)
- #2 These are very common and show up under many different names. They are a clone of the Courtois Arban model (photo 6). The fanciest version has brace flanges that resemble fish scales as on this Seefeldt corset with serial #4562 from c.1900. Photo 5 at right shows the “2” model marking.



Photo 1 shows a Carl Fischer with the same design

Characteristics of most B&F cornets are the straight through valve design, oval C-brace on the tuning slide, 2nd slide at 90 degrees, and a single ring separating the upper and lower halves of the valves.

One thing to note is that the number does not always show up on the horn. These number groupings have come about by finding numbered examples and matching them to unmarked ones.

Other examples of this same design are found with names like Aschbach of Allentown (photo 2), R. Enders of Brooklyn (below), Dyers Improved (photo 3), and Lyon & Healy Silver Piston of Chicago (photo 4).

When you find a one-of-a-kind example like this Enders, you can be pretty certain it's an imported stencil.



#3 These are a clone of a Besson style and can be found on horns like this Champion Silver Piston sold by Lyon & Healy (photo 5) from the mid-1890s to about 1910.

#4 This number can show up on two different styles. One has dual tuning slides (photo 6 & below) and has a fixed lead pipe.



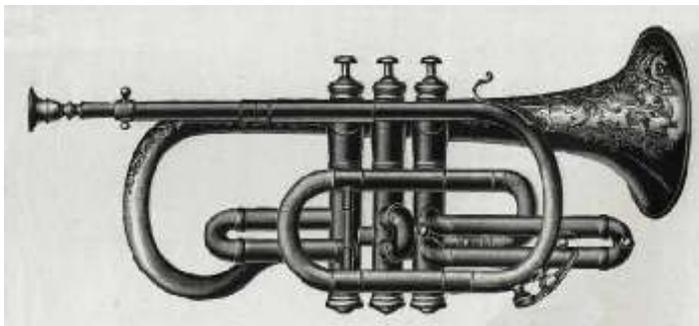
Others resemble the Courtois Arbuckle model with a dual water key like this Benson from Minnesota (photo 1). Compare these to the original Courtois (photo 2) and it's hard to tell the difference.

- #5 These are the same as the #3 and have been found marked Fillmore (photo 3), NY Musical Instrument Co (photo 4), and Easman & Co, Newburgh NY (below).

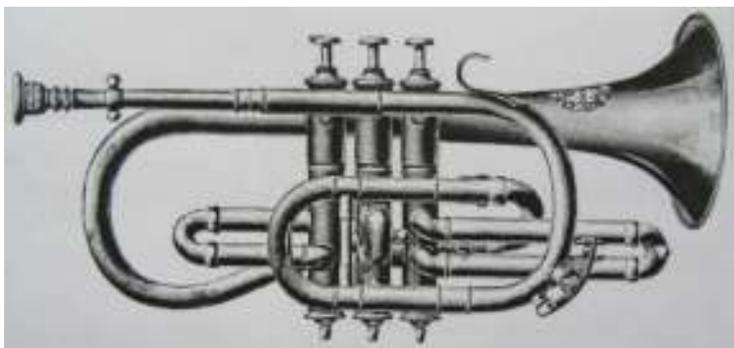


- #6 I have this old parts horn with a number 6 but there is little left to it. (photos 5 & 6)

- #7 These have a dual tuning slide and look like a Besson clone. One example is the Bryant Invincible model (photo 7) and a H. N. White "Bauer Superior" (photo 8). They match this 1903 ad for their new Clear Bore cornet.



Another B&F ad from 1905 shows this as their model 602.



I also have this #7 cornet in the parts rack that has the B&F stamp above the letter N and stamped "Austria" on the inlet (photos 1 & 2 at right and below). The wrap is the same as #2 but this one has fancier joints.



#8 One found with "Austria / 8" on the middle valve which is a Courtois style like #4; labeled "Louis Bremond & Co / Paris" so another fake French name (below, auction photo)



#9 Similar to the #5 but a tighter wrap so probably pitched in C (photo 3)

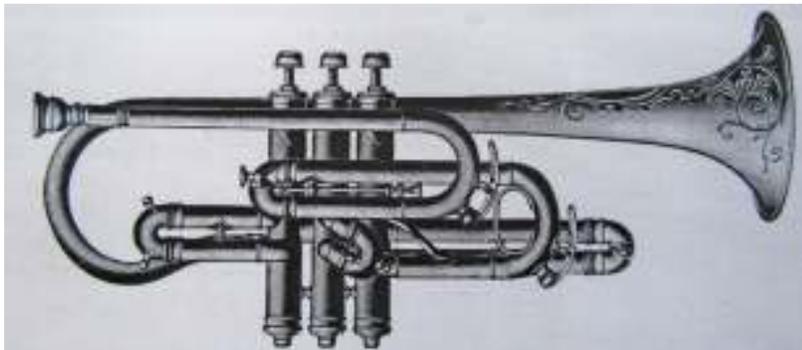


#10 not found yet

#11 This is a York Perfectone clone and must have been very popular as there are a lot of these out there (photo 4). These can be found under names like Tonk (photo 5), Pepper #68385 c.1917 (photo 6), and Ohnhaus & Muck c.1922 (below).



This is shown in the B&F catalog from 1912 as a new long model (below)



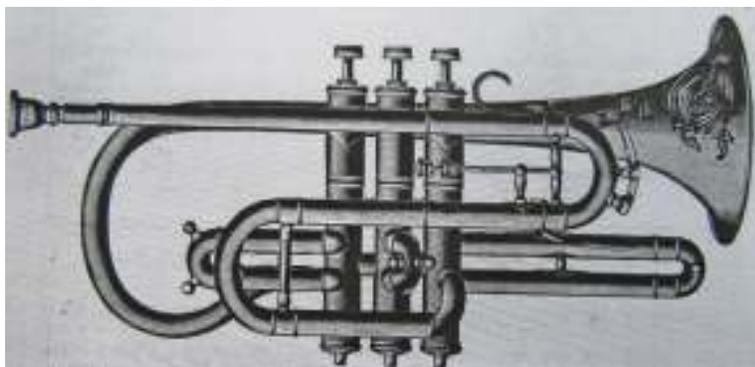
#12 One example below



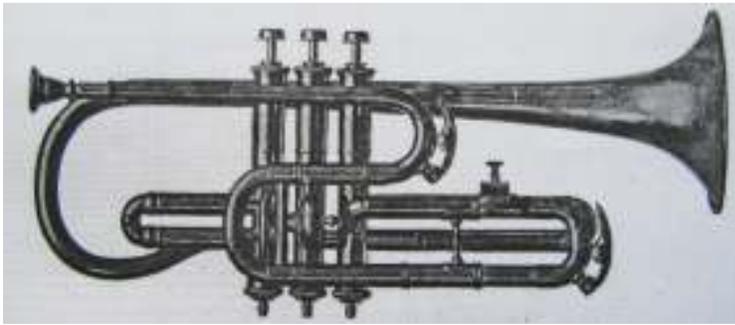
#13 One example from my parts bin (photo 1 & below)



A 1912 W.R. Gratz ad shows this new long model 1000-1 cornet with a quick change to A. Examples are a Carl Fischer American model (photo 2), a Bryant (photo 3); B&F American (photo 4), and B&F Imperial model (photo 5)



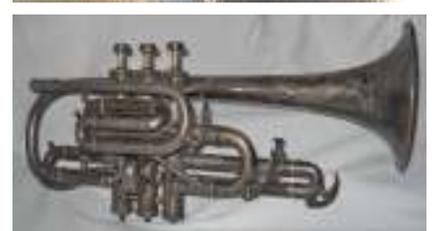
A 1913 W.R. Gratz ad shows this model 7000 cornet. One variation on this is probably in C (photo 6 last page) while another is in Bb (photo 7 last page).



In 1914, B&F introduces two new S-lead pipe cornets, 16" long Model 11000



& Model 13000 "The Blizzard"



Other Cornets:

Jenkin & Sons Music – Harwood Special: this has a three-tab circle on one side and "B&F" & "H" on the other (photos 1 & 2, author's collection)



Dyer of St Paul sold this Conn Wonder clone which was very well done but the clue to the real maker is the 3-tab circle mark and the two-digit valve number (photos 3 & 4, author's collection). Most domestic cornets have 1-2-3 for the valve numbers. It's marked "Dyer's US Model"



Gautier Virtuoso: domestic retailers like to buy horns with French sounding names to make them seem better than they really are; this cornet (photo 5 last page) is one example and this style can be found under other names and is a variation on the #11.

A compact version can also be found with B&F or other names on it (photos 6 & 7 last page)

C. Bruno & Sons – New York: most of their cornets appear to be made by B&F and are often found marked “Austria” (photos 1 to 4 at right from Horn-u-copia.net)

1886 Bruno catalog page showing Pourcelle Bb cornets; another French sounding name that’s really not



Marceau – Paris: sold by Sears, these all appear to be B&F made; photo 5 is identical to the B&F model 13000 Blizzard from 1914



Montgomery Ward: their “Concertone” (photo 6 last page) and Jules DeVere (below) look pretty familiar



This one showed up on an internet auction with the marking “Chardon Freres / Paris”. It looks a lot like the #1 example except for a slight change in the first slide alignment and multiple bands at the valve casing joint. There is no listing for this company in the *New Langwill Index* so probably another fake French name.



Gloriosa trumpet with circle mark as seen on a cornet; probably pre-WWI due to Bohemia marking (below & photos 1 & 2 at right, auction photos)



Photos from Horn-u-copia.net unless noted otherwise