Couesnon & Cie.

Paris, France

1827  A. G. Guichard establishes company outside Paris

1835  Guichard is joined by brother-in-law Pierre Gautrot

1845  Gautrot is now the proprietor of the business

1881  the Triebert company is purchased by Gautrot

1882  Gautrot, Durant et Cie. becomes Couesnon, Gautrot et Cie.
     under the directorship of Amedee August Couesnon (kwee-non), the son-in-law of Gautrot

1888  now Couesnon et Cie.; rue d'Angouleme 94, Paris

1896  workforce of 200 at factory in Chateau Thierry

1911  workforce of 1,000 at 8 factories, the largest maker in the world at the time

1912  catalog shows early trumpet with cornet-like end of bell where it enters the valves (photo 3)

1915  a catalog states that they recently were awarded a contract to supply the French army with brass instruments

1927  now down to workforce of 200

1937  office moves to rue Lafayette 105

1960  catalog shows new lower price “Lafayette” model brass

1969  the main factory at Chateau Thierry burned

1978  the contract with US importer Gretsch ends

2017  the current PGM Couesnon company was formed from former employees buying the name and starting a small production business (company website)

Information from The New Langwill Index unless noted; photos from Horn-u-copia.net unless noted

Dating Couesnon instruments:

1. Most instruments from the late 1800s into the 1950s had a two-digit date in a pineapple on the bell (bottom photo).

2. The address changed from rue d'Angouleme to Lafayette around 1937.

3. Serial numbers are difficult to pin down so it’s safer to date them by the date in the pineapple or by comparing the bell inscription style.

4. Like most companies, the bell inscription goes from elaborate to simple over time.
Couesnon Logos:
Photo 1: 1893
Photo 2: 1915 American Perf.
Photo 3: 1922
Photo 4: 1927 Monopole model
Photo 5: 1945
Photo 6: 1947 now with the C around the O
Photo 7: 1956 (bottom right)
Photo 8 below: c.1970, by now just a crudely stamped name
Coupson Trumpets:

Photo 1: as seen in 1912 catalog

Photo 2: American Perfection model as seen in 1915 Sherman, Clay & Co. catalog, western US dealers for Coupson

Photo 3: 1924 American Perfection model

Photo 4: 1924 Monopole model

Photo 5: 1945 in C

Photo 6: c.1950

Photo 7: 1950

Photo 8: 1951

Photo 9: 1960 model PX2125, large bore

Photo 10: 1961

Photo 11: #46257 resembles 1960/61 catalog photos

Photo 12: Monopole model 7480, c.1970 catalog, ML bore

Photo 13: #83281 resembles c.1970 Monopole except for missing 1st valve slide trigger (below)

Photo 14: Deluxe model 7474, c.1970 catalog, ML bore (below)

Photo 15: Renault model, looks like 1960s except front water key

Photo 16: 1965 piccolo, 4 valves (below)
In 1927 the sole US agent was Simson & Frey of NYC. Their ad shows four new US trumpet models; the Classic, Champion, Virtuoso, & Imperator. Photo 2 is example in ad which matches the American Perfection model from 1924 on the last page.

The earliest mention I have found of the “Monopole” model is from an ad in 1910.