

# Ernst Theodore Seltmann

## Philadelphia, PA

- 1828 Seltmann is born in Neukirchen, Germany (census).
- 1857 Seltmann emigrates to Philadelphia.
- 1860 Seltmann, musical inst maker, wife Elizabeth (1833-1906).
- 1861 Seltmann, brass musical inst., #610 Callowhill St (dir).
- 1863 Seltmann moves to #811 Callowhill (directory).
- 1881 Nephew Carl Doelling emigrates and joins him. Carl is 18 and born in Markneukirchen Germany in 1864. His father, Ernst Doelling, had a large brass instrument factory there.
- 1882 Seltmann receives two cases of musical goods from overseas (news listing). Doelling is naturalized.
- 1883 Seltmann dies on June 27 & the business is continued by widow Theresa and nephew Carl E. Doelling.
- 1884 Carl Doelling opens his shop at #809 Callowhill (dir).
- 1886 Last listing found for shop at #811 Callowhill. Carl marries Seltmann's daughter Gertrude Katharine (1863-1959).
- 1890 Theresa E. Seltmann, musical instruments, #809 Cal.
- 1899 Ad for brass spun horns at reduced prices, 809 Callowhill.
- 1902 Carl had contracts with the Army and Navy bands for repair of brass instruments until his death in 1947.
- 1906 Elizabeth Seltmann dies in January. Doelling now under his own name (Doelling cornet bottom photo).
- 1910 Carl Doelling, #809 Callowhill, musical inst. maker (dir).
- 1911 C.E. Doelling, band instruments, #809 Callowhill (dir).
- 1920 C.E. Doelling, pianos & organs (?); 2 workers.
- 1930 Doelling, #809 Callowhill, dealer & maker of musical inst.
- 1945 Two men tried to rob Doelling but he chased them off with a hammer (see center photo page 3). He had a store in front and workshop in rear. He said he had been there 61 years and at one time played the French horn in Sousa's band (Doelling horn bottom photo).
- 1946 Carl and wife celebrate their 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary. They live at #809 Callowhill and #211 N. Brighton Ave, Atlantic City. Carl still made or repaired instruments.



1947 Carl dies on May 19<sup>th</sup> at work in his shop at #809 Callowhill. They said he had made & repaired brass there for 65 years and lived in an apartment over the shop.

**Dating Seltmann Instruments:** so far I have found six different logo styles

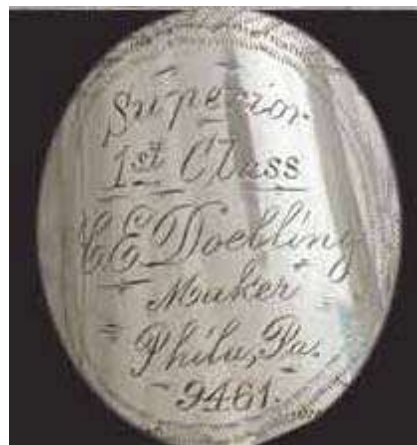
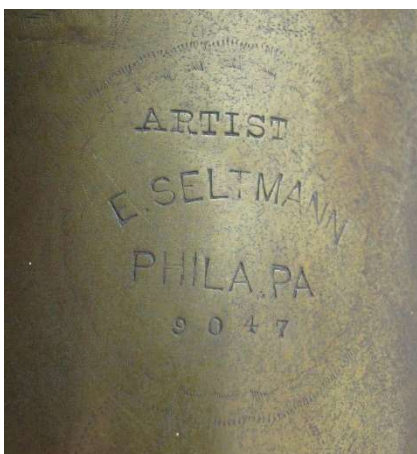
1. "E. Seltmann Phila." in straight line (top photo); found on one OTS Tuba at the Met Museum (p. 3 bottom center), c.1865
2. "E. Seltmann Maker Phila." in oval logo (2<sup>nd</sup> photo); found on several rotary valve instruments; c.1860s & 1870s
3. "E. Seltmann Phila." in round logo matching that of Lehnert in Philadelphia (3<sup>rd</sup> photo). This style is also found on several instruments that also have a crown with 1866 & 1876 awards listed (4<sup>th</sup> photo). This type of marking is also found on instruments sold by Julius Bauer and Tonk, both of Chicago, and may be made by V. F. Cervený of Germany. Date after 1876.



4. "E. Seltmann & Co. Phila." found on one Bb TARV Tenor horn could date to the 1881-1883 period when Seltmann & Doelling were together. (4<sup>th</sup> photo at right)

5. "Artist E. Seltmann Phila. PA" found on two Bb PV Baritones with serial #6128 (2<sup>nd</sup> photo page 1) & #9047 (bottom left). These are probably from the 1890s and have decorative trim pieces.

6. "Superior 1<sup>st</sup> Class C E Doelling Maker Phila Pa" (center bottom) with serial numbers 9457 (French horn, bottom right) and 9461 (cornet, bottom 1<sup>st</sup> page & below center). I also found one Baritone Sax with no number. These date to 1906 or later.



Other items:

1. Both the “New Grove Dictionary” and “New Langwill Index” list a son Theodore E. Seltmann but I have found no evidence for this. They only had one daughter, Annie, born in 1860. His grave stone says “Th. Ernst Seltmann”, so may be part of the confusion.

2. Doelling also made his own mouthpiece for cornet (below).

