Besson & Co.
London

1850  Besson opens a London branch at 8 Lowther Arcade, Strand, at the store of John Pask (NLI)

1855  Besson now at #214 Regent St. with Jullien & Co. (NLI)

1858  Besson opens a factory at #198 Euston Rd. (now Stephenson Way, a lane behind the Euston Rd showroom) (NLI)

1862  instruments now marked “F Besson” (NLI)

1869  instruments now marked “F Besson & Co.” (NLI)

1874  Gustav Besson dies leaving the company to his widow (NLI); Louis Schreiber becomes the US agent for Besson

1875  Besson’s daughter Marthe takes control of the company

1883  US agency changes from Schreiber to Carl Fischer in NY

1894  Besson London employs 131 workers with an output of 100 instruments per week (NLI)

1896  Besson becomes a limited company (NLI)

1925  Besson buys the woodwind business of Stephen Quilter in London (NLI)

1933  the former Boosey & Co. factory is leased by Besson

1934  Besson at Euston Rd and #57 New Compton St. (NLI)

1935  Besson at New Compton & #7-10 Frederick Close St. (NLI)

1940  Besson buys woodwind maker Wheatstone & Co. (NLI)

1940-1945  no production due to the war (NLI)

1948  Besson is purchased by Boosey & Hawkes (NLI)

2006  Besson joins the Buffet Crampon Group

2013  Buffet buys B&S and all brass manufacture is in Markneukirchen, Germany

Photos 2 & below author’s collection; others from auctions