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## COMMUNICATION

### A Maker's Stamp of the Gütter family

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In his fine article “The Gütter Family: Wind Instrument Makers and Dealers to the Moravian Brethren in America” (this JOURNAL 27 [2001]: 48–83), Stewart Carter has included as figure 12 (p. 71) his sketch of a device forming part of the maker's stamp on a straight cornett by this family of Neukirchen makers. He states that this cornett is “. . . one of the few instruments stamped with mirror images of an emblem that appears to depict an elephant facing a viper . . .” (p. 70).

In my collection is a Gütter flute that may shed additional light on this emblem or device. After carefully studying the stamp on this flute, I see the device not as an elephant facing a viper, but rather as an elephant with a very long tusk curling back on itself. Figure 1 shows this 1796 flute with its three *corps de rechange* in its original case. Figure 2 is a photograph of the maker's stamp, and figure 3 is my sketch of the stamp. I will leave the reading of any deeper meaning into the stamp to others.

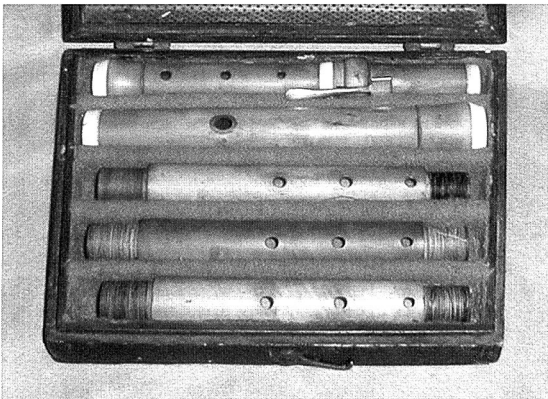


FIGURE 1. Gütter flute of 1796 in original case (collection of the author).

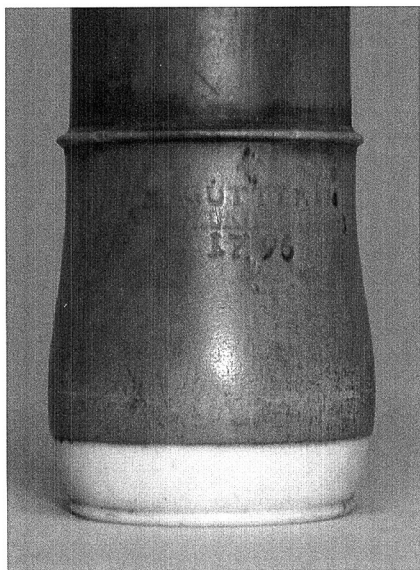


FIGURE 2. Maker's stamp on the Gütter flute of figure 1.



FIGURE 3. Sketch of the maker's stamp.