

*The*

# *Lute*



2013

VOLUME LIII

The Journal of the Lute Society

# THE LUTE

The Journal of The Lute Society

Volume LIII

2013

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Peter Short and the printing of Dowland's <i>First Booke of Songes</i><br>TESSA MURRAY                                       | 1  |
| Francesco Corbetta, a biography<br>MONICA HALL   | 18 |
| A little more information on Reverend Johan Norhborg's eleven-course lute<br>KENNETH SPARR                                   | 49 |
| Four English country-dance tunes in Trinity College, Dublin Manuscript 408/II:<br>A tune for Hay the gye<br>JOHN H. ROBINSON | 54 |
| Obituary: Philip MacLeod Coupe (1944–2013)<br>ROBERT COUPE   | 67 |

Editor: CHRISTOPHER GOODWIN

A PDF version of this journal, with pictures in colour, can be downloaded from:  
<http://www.lutesociety.org/uploads/journal/ejournal/the-lute-53-edu2395t>

COVER ILLUSTRATION: Detail of portrait of Francesco Corbetta, from  
*Varii Scherzi di Sonate per la Chitarra Spagnola* (Brussels, 1648)

# THE LUTE

## The Journal of the Lute Society

### Volume LIII

2013

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY AS FROM THE 2013 AGM:

PRESIDENT:

David van Edwards

COMMITTEE:

Ex officio: David van Edwards, David Protheroe, Tom Neitzert, Gary Bridgewood,  
Francis Knights, Monica Hall, Denys Stephens, Hector Sequera  
Elected: Hubert Kwisthout, Eric Franklin, Wilfred Foxe, Luke Emmet, Alan Hoyle,  
Matthew Leigh Embleton, Gordon Gregory, Stewart McCoy, Din Ghani, Zak Ozmo,  
John Reeve, Pat Glynn

EDITORIAL SUB-COMMITTEE:

Michael Lowe, Tim Crawford, John Robinson,  
Peter Forrester, Matthew Spring, David van Edwards

SECRETARY:

Christopher Goodwin

Published by The Lute Society, Southside Cottage,  
Brook Hill, Albury, Guildford GU5 9DJ, Great Britain  
Tel: (+44)/(0)1483 202159

Email: [secretary@lutesociety.org](mailto:secretary@lutesociety.org) Website: [www.lutesociety.org](http://www.lutesociety.org)

© The Lute Society 2016

ISSN 0952 0759

ISBN 978-0-9576886-4-3

Typeset by Christopher Goodwin and printed by Henry Ling Limited  
at the Dorset Press, Dorchester DT1 1HD

## A LITTLE MORE INFORMATION ON THE REVEREND JOHAN NOHRBORG'S ELEVEN-COURSE LUTE

KENNETH SPARR

Since an article on the Reverend Johan Nohrborg's lute, preserved in a Swedish museum, appeared in the last issue of this journal, further information concerning the maker of this interesting lute has come to my attention. As can be seen in the photograph below, the handwritten label inside the instrument reads *Christianus Wagener Dannzig Ano*. In a personal communication Herbert Heyde alerted me to Hans-Peter Kosack's dissertation *Geschichte der Laute und Lautenmusik in Preussen* which mentions a listing in the Danzig *Bürgerbuch* for a lute maker by the name of Kristian Wagner, who was granted citizenship there in 1569. Kosack gives the entry as follows:

1569 Kristian Wagner aus Weinheim in B., Lautenmacher, erwirbt das Bürgerricht zu Danzig (D.StA. Reg. z. Bürgerbuch)<sup>1</sup>

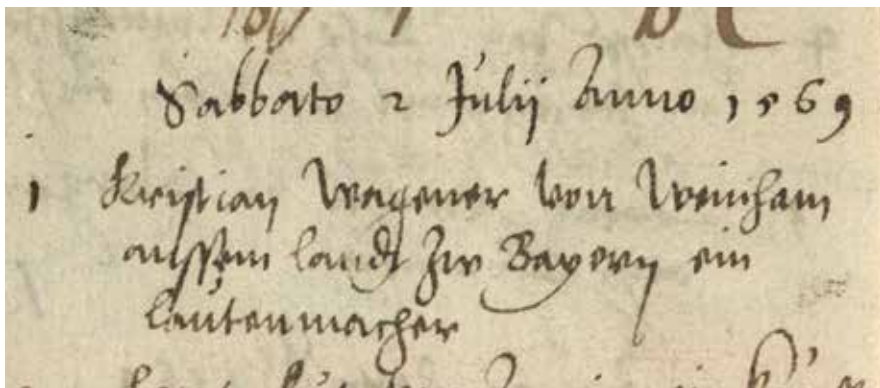
Of course I had looked for a lute maker from the seventeenth century and failed to take into account the possibility that he might have belonged to an earlier period. Adolf Layer repeats Kosack's information in his book *Die Allgäuer Lauten- und Geigenmacher* and describes Wagener as a *Süddeutscher* (South German).<sup>2</sup> Kosack's information concerning the source is incomplete, but I was fortunate in enlisting the help of Benjamin Vogel and Jerzy M. Michalak in tracking down the location of the Danzig *Bürgerbuch*. It is preserved in the State Archive in Gdańsk (Archiwum Państwowe w Gdańsku) in Poland under the shelf mark sign. 300, 60/2. On page 196 we find entries, which can be seen in the photographs overleaf. I read the note concerning our lute maker as follows:

Sabbato 2 July Anno 1569

1. Kristian Wegener von Weinham aussm land zu Bayern ein lautenmacher.

This precise dating confirms Kosack's information, showing that a lute maker named Kristian Wegener became a *Burger* in Gdańsk on Saturday 2 July 1569. It also suggests that Wagener probably was born in or hailed from a place called Weinham in Bavaria. No place with exactly this name can be found in Bavaria, but a candidate location is a small village, Weilham, situated in the south eastern part of Bavaria quite near the border with Austria, and north west of Salzburg. However a more plausible place is the city of Weilheim in Oberbayern (Upper Bavaria), Landkreis Weilheim-Schongau, which is situated only 60 kilometres north east of Füssen.<sup>3</sup> One may speculate whether Wagener





A detail from Gdańsk (Archiwum Państwowe w Gdańsku) sign. 300, 60/2, page 196, photo: Jerzy M. Michalak.

was an apprentice and/or a journeyman, or even became a master lute maker in Upper Bavaria. Whatever the case, he was probably already an established master before becoming a *Burger* in Gdańsk. Even if there still are questions remaining it seems reasonable to assume that it is Wagener's label that is found in this lute.



The maker's or repairer's label in the lute, photo: Kenneth Sparr

We cannot be absolutely certain whether Wagener was the lute's original maker, or simply repaired it. In any case, if the lute was made in the late sixteenth century, it must have been converted to an eleven-course instrument in the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries. This would have been done in the usual way: fitting a new neck, pegbox, bridge and possibly even a new (or at least different) soundboard. The instrument's survival is almost certainly due to its stunning back. As stated in my article, a closer inspection of the lute may reveal more information, and further biographical research may reveal more about Kristian Wagener.<sup>4</sup>

The lute certainly arrived in Sweden before 1786 and possibly much earlier. We should bear in mind that there were close trade and cultural connections between

Gdańsk and Sweden in the sixteenth century. Several lute players at the Swedish court were associated with Gdańsk: Hieronymus, Nikles, Cornelius and Caspar, all with the surname Hoffmann. Caspar Hoffmann is of particular interest as in 1569 (the same year as Wagener is noted in the *Bürgerbuch*) he is mentioned in Gdańsk as ‘ein lautenist . . . in Dantzig glaubhafftich Zeugbar Mann’. In my opinion it is highly probable that Caspar Hoffmann and Kristian Wagener knew each other.<sup>5</sup>



*The lute maker*, woodcut by Jost Amman (1574); this woodcut is contemporary with the life of Christianus Wagener, from the collection of Kenneth Sparr.

To summarise my hypotheses concerning this lute: the lute maker Christianus Wagener made the back and possibly also the soundboard in c.1570–90 in Gdańsk, and between c.1640 and 1720 the instrument underwent repair and was fitted with a new neck, peg-box, bridge and possibly even a new soundboard. It is also probable that the preserved case was made in about the same period. The maker/repairer of the lute, Christianus Wagener, was born in Weilheim, Bavaria, Germany in c.1530–40. Wagener spent some

time in Bavaria as an apprentice and journeyman. It is possible that the lute may have arrived in Sweden as early as the late sixteenth century, but certainly before 1786. In my opinion these new facts strengthen the importance of this sadly neglected artefact in the county museum of Västmanland, Sweden.

## Notes

I would like to thank Herbert Heyde, Benjamin Vogel, Jerzy M. Michalak, Anthony Bailes and Frank Legl who provided me with much of the information presented in these addenda.

- 1 Kosack, Hans-Peter, *Geschichte der Laute und Lautenmusik in Preussen* (Würzburg, 1934), p. 20.
- 2 Layer, Adolf, *Die Allgäuer Lauten- und Geigenmacher* (Augsburg, 1978), p. 51.
- 3 Layer, op. cit., p. 170, notes that an ancestor to the lute maker Johann Rem (?–1632) in Füssen originated from Weilheim.
- 4 A possible relative (a son?) to Kristian Wagener could be the organ player Lorenz Wagner who is mentioned in 1591 in the St. Katharinen church in Gdańsk. Hermann Rauschnig, *Geschichte der Musik und Musikpflege in Danzig. Von den Anfängen bis zur Auflösung der Kirchenkapellen*, (Quellen und Darstellungen zur Geschichte Westpreussens 15) (Danzig, 1931) pp. 213, 421f. Cited by Dahlström, Fabian, Stadtmusikanten, *Organisten und Kantoren im Ostseeraum bis ca.1850* (2013), p. 67. See: <http://www.doria.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/78703/2.%20Aabenraa-Ystad.pdf> visited 31 August 2015. Another possible, more far-fetched, relative might be the *Lautenmacherswitwe* (lute maker's widow) Elisabeth Wagner who in 1639 married the lute maker and widower Thomas Epp from Vienna. Layer, op. cit., 123.
- 5 Kosack, op. cit., pp. 7, 20. Sparr, Kenneth, 'Lutenists at the Royal Court of King Gustavus I of Sweden', *The Lute* xxv part 2, pp. 69-80. An updated version of this article can be found at <http://www.tabulatura.com/SWECOURT.htm> viewed 18 December 2015.