

Boalch No: 2

Signature: Iohannes Player fecit

Compass: GG/BB-c''' short octave ~~broken~~

Case: Oak

Stand: Four legged frame stand in oak.

Hinges: Iron "angry lady" on main lid, flap hinges: brass

Angle to left of keyboard: Double angle

Dimensions:

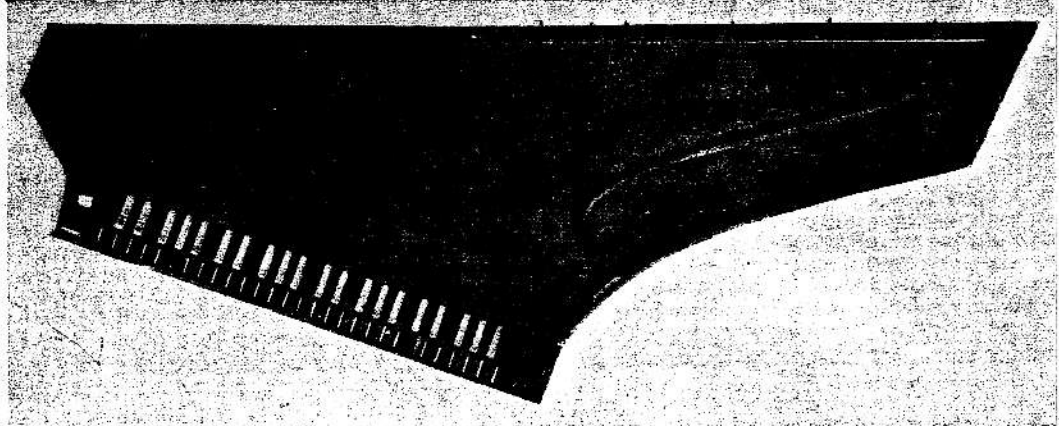
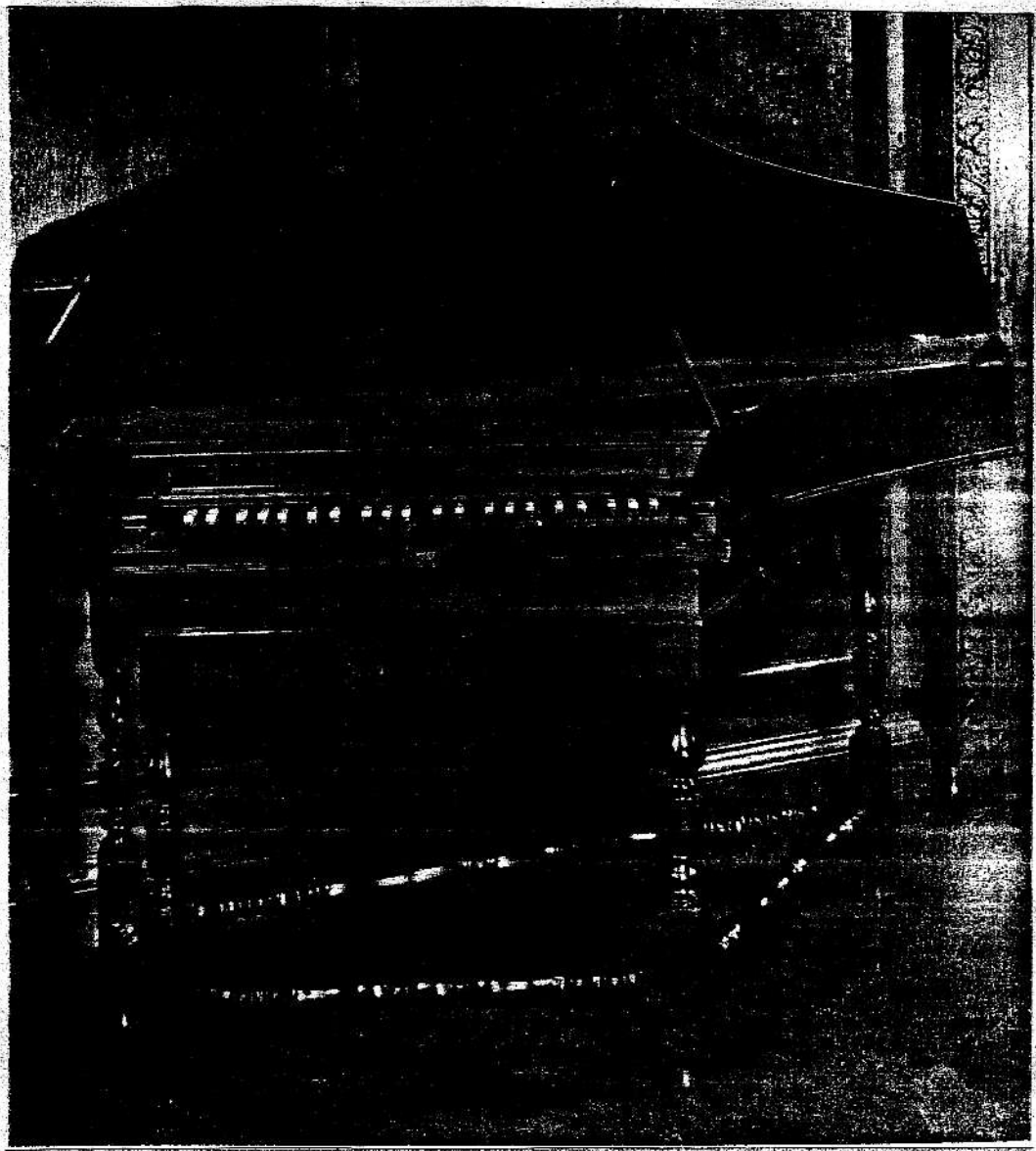
Length 1302 (max)
 Widest point not including keyboard 577
 Case height 162
 3 octave span 474

Note	String length	Plucking point	Relative scale
GG	1297	102	
C	1267	97	
c	909	65	9"
c'	477	58	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
c''	249	50	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
c'''	121	41	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Detailed description:

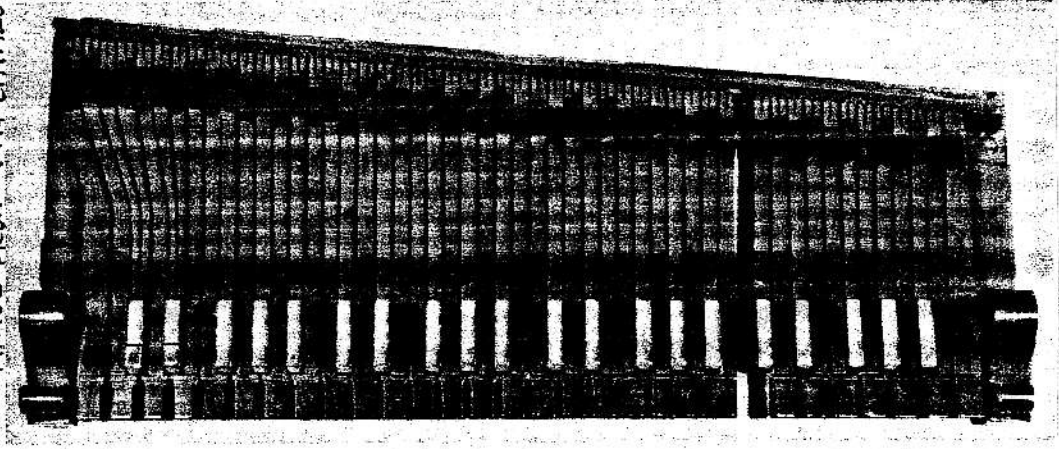
The pine keyboard has ebony naturals and sharps of wood capped with various thicknesses of ivory. The embossed keyfronts were once gilded but are now black. The keys are guided by wooden slips at their distal ends. The jacks, now all missing, were guided in a box register glued to the oak wrestplank. The soundboard is now covered in a dark stain which was probably added by a later restorer. The keyboard lidflap has a front strip joined to it which, when closed covers the fronts of the keys, and which holds the lock catch. The stand is particularly interesting in having a deep skirt around the top. The bentside joins directly onto the keyboard end piece.

Present owner: V & A.



John Player, undated, Boalch 2

PHOTOS FROM V+A CATALOGUE



Boalch No: None

Signature: Iohannes Player fecit

Compass: GG/BB-c''' broken octave

Case: Yew or cedar

Stand: Trestle, later 18th century.

Hinges: One original lid flap hinge of iron, remaining are modified grandfather clock hinges.

Angle to left of keyboard: Obtuse

Dimensions:

Length 1413
 Widest point not including keyboard 560
 Case height 177
 3 octave span 476

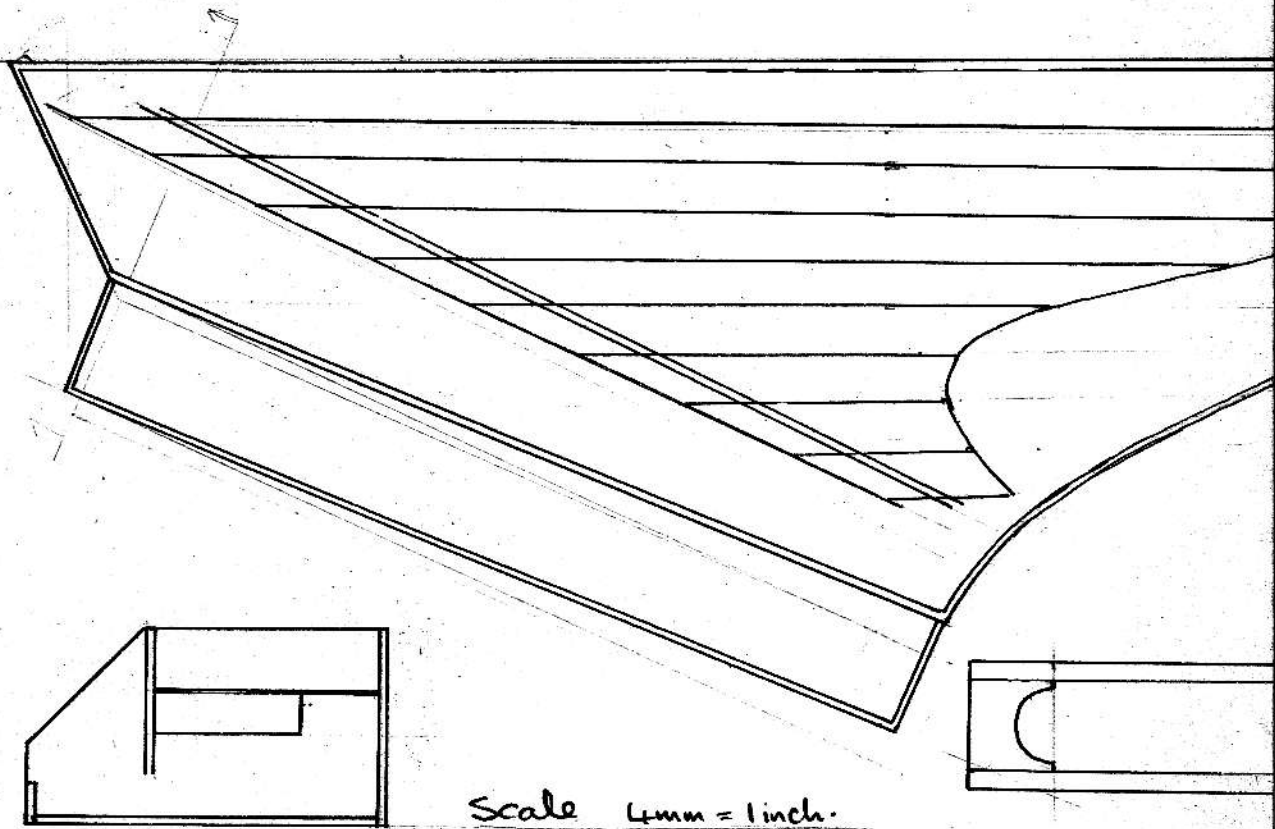
Note	String length	Plucking point	Relative scale
GG	1220	85	
C	1192	79	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
c	958	68	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
c'	494	59	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
c''	251	49	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
c'''	117	41	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ "

Detailed description:

. The keyboard has ebony naturals and ivory sharps, with embossed paper keyfronts. The pine keys end in wooden slips in a rack. The soundboard is continuous over the wrestplank, which is of beech, and the jacks are guided by a punched leather strip laid above oversized mortices in the soundboard wood. The spine is of pine. The nut is beech, the bridge pear and is backpinned to b. All the jacks are covered in black lead, presumably as a lubricant but it is now hard to tell what they are made of. The hitchpin rail has been re-capped and is high over all its length. The case is internally veneered in yew or cedar and the nameboard is divided into panels with lightwood lines.

Present owner: ¹⁴ Mrs H. Hornold - Strickland

John Player undated Not listed in Boalch



Wrest Plank + nut - Beech.

Bridge - Pear.

Jacks - covered in black lead

Case sides - Yew or Cedar

Soundboard - Spruce / fir

Register - Leather

Naturals - Ebony.

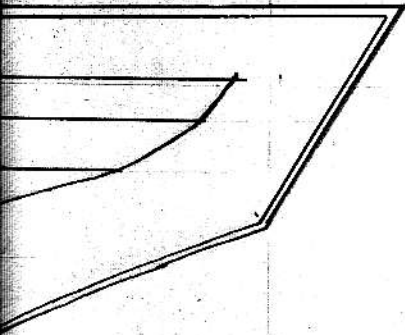
Sharps - Ivory.

Key fronts - embossed

Guide System - pins

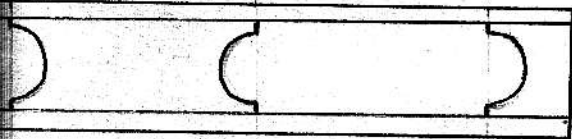
Main lid hinges - (m

Sizergh Castle.



Compass GG/BB - c''' short Octave.

Note	Length	Pluck	\approx c'' Inch Scale
GG	1220 48	85	
C	1192	79	5 7/8"
F	1118	77	
c	958	68	9 3/8"
f	766	68	
c'	494	59	9 3/4"
f'	391	59	
c''	251	49	9 1/8"
f''	198	51	
c'''	117	41	9 3/16"



Keyboard width 675

3 octave span 473

Sharp tops 2 1/8"

Naturals (Head) 1 1/4"

Bridge back pinned to b

(like VIA Player)
into rack.

modified Grandfather clock)

Boalch No: None

Signature: Iohannes Player fecit on jackrail

Compass: GG/BB-c''' broken octave

Case: Part solid, part veneered in Virginia cedar.

Stand: Trestle with three barleysugar twist legs.

Hinges: Brass

Angle to left of keyboard: Double

Dimensions:

Length
Widest point not including keyboard
Case height
3 octave span

Note	String length	Plucking point	Relative scale
C	1365		6 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
c	938		9 $\frac{3}{8}$ "
c'	521		10 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
c''	256		10"
c'''	113		8 $\frac{7}{8}$ "

Detailed description:

This spinet is perhaps unique among English instruments, in that it has two sets of strings at 8' pitch. The soundboard is also unusual, carrying a large block of wood underneath on the keyboard side of the bridge. This block has its grain running crosswise, giving it flexibility and it is probably there to add weight to the soundboard. There is also a smaller bar of similarly cross grained wood running parallel to the bridge on the bentside side, which is joined via the main bar to the first soundbar by a 'flying' rib. Otherwise the instrument follows a more normal barring structure except for small thin bars running parallel to the grain between the soundbars. The keyboard has ebony naturals with bone sharps and embossed paper keyfronts like those on Keene spinets. This spinet was once extended to give a compass of GG-d''' chromatic, but has now been restored to its original compass. The keylevers are of lime or poplar, the rack is walnut as is the box guide. In order to cope with the extra strings Player has made his hitchpin rail out of oak. The remaining liners are of spruce. The jacks are of service or holly. The nameboard carries an elaborate marquetry panel.¹⁵

Present Owner : Alan Rubin



John Player Special . A double string Spinet

PHOTOS BY CHRIS NEEBBS



Detail of Unusual Soundboard barring

Boalch No: None

Signature: None except T.A. on top and bottom keys

Compass: GG/BB-c''' broken octave

Case: Walnut

Stand: Trestle with four "cotton reel" turned legs

Hinges:

Angle to left of keyboard: Double

Dimensions:

Length 1499
 Widest point not including keyboard
 Case height 165
 3 octave span 479

Note	String length	Plucking point	Relative scale
GG	1308	107	
c''	255		10"
d'''	101	44	8½"

Detailed description:

The keyboard has ebony naturals with ivory sharps and embossed paper keyfronts like those on the V&A Player. The compass has been extended from the original GG/BB-c''' and the extra slots in the box guide have wider cut outs for clearance of the tongues. The soundboard stops at the wrestplank which carries a one piece nut. The nameboard has a fine marquetry panel like the last instrument, and is veneered in pear or cedar. The lid flap carries the extra front strip to cover the keys as found on other early Player spinets.

Present owner: Russell Collection



PHOTO CATALOGUE OF RUSSELL COLLECTION

Unsigned except for T.A on bottom + top keys. Russell Collection.



PHOTO: CATALOGUE OF RUSSELL COLLECTION

Unsigned except T.A on bottom key. Russell Collection

Boalch No: 6

Signature: Iohannis Player Londini Fecit

Compass: GG/BB-d''' broken octave

Case: Walnut

Stand: Walnut trestle with four turned legs

Hinges: Brass

Angle to left of keyboard: Double

Dimensions:

Length 1488
 Widest point not including keyboard 521
 Case height 157
 3 octave span 473

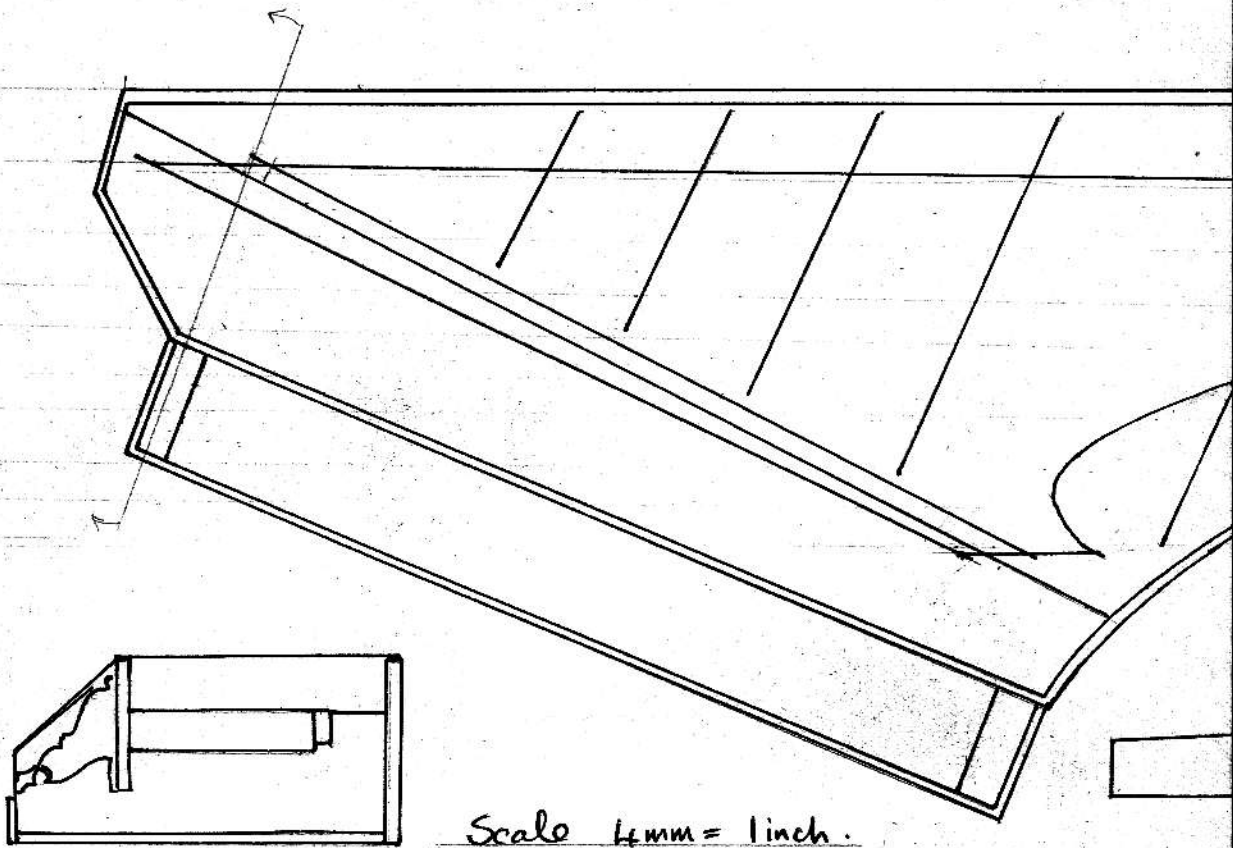
Note	String length	Plucking point	Relative scale
GG	1295	116	
C	1268	110	6¼"
c	945	90	9¼"
c'	550	75	10¾"
c''	264	59	10¾"
c'''	125	51	9¾"
d'''	112	44	

Detailed description:

The bottom key is signed "C.A" and the top key is inscribed "54 last". The keyboard has ebony naturals, with ivory sharps and embossed paper keyfronts like those on Keene spinets. The keyframe is of oak and has its touch limit on the front rail. The balance pins are iron. There are nail holes in both top and bottom keys and in the balance rail, showing where the key slab was fixed while drilling the balance holes. The keys end in wooden slips in a rack. The end blocks have mortices, which correspond with holes in the keywell end pieces, in order to hold candle sticks.

The original jacks are of service or pear, with holly tongues. About half are replacements made of beech. The original jacks have been renumbered, presumably to get the best possible fit in the box guide. The guide and beech wrestplank are proud of the soundboard level and are surrounded by a small, black-stained moulding, as is found round the remaining internal edges of the spinet. The keywell has decorative cheek pieces, in the Italian style, glued in beside the end blocks. These are of sycamore or birch as is the veneer on the nameboard, which leaves a recessed panel in the centre for the name, as is found on the V&A Player.

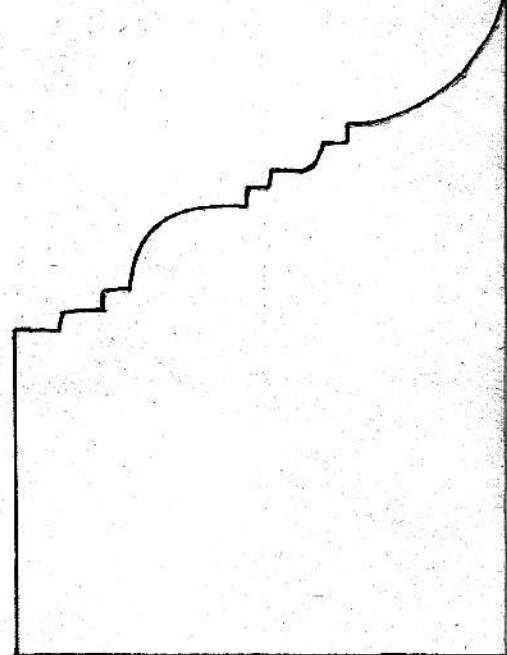
Present owner: Lord Tollemache

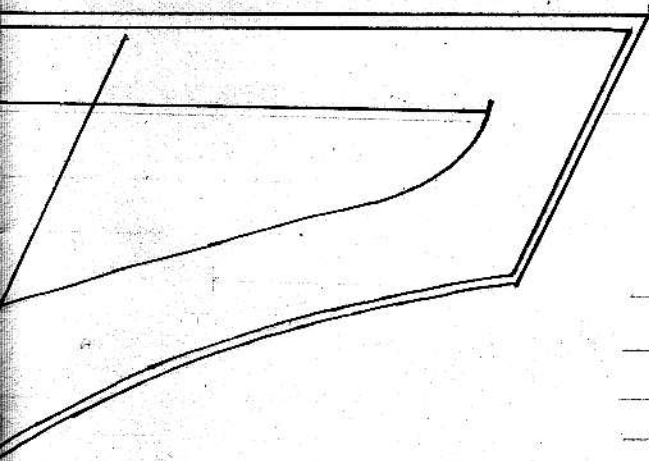


Scale 4mm = 1inch.



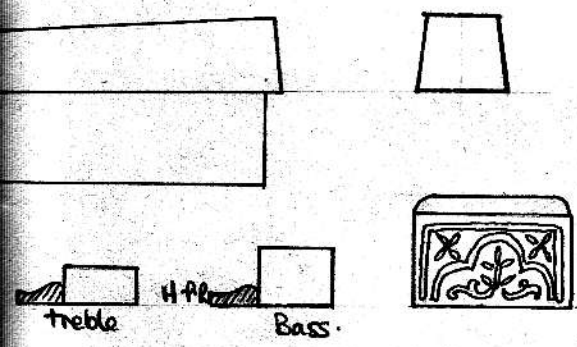
- Jacks, bridge, nut - Pear.
- Wrest plank + register - beech.
- key levers - lime
- key frame - oak
- Case sides - walnut.
- Internal veneer - Steamore
- Naturals - ebony.
- Sharps - Ivory.
- Soundboard moulding - black,
- Soundboard - Spruce / fir





Compass GG/BB - d''' broken 8^{ve}

Note	Length	pluck	[≡] c" inch scale
GG	1295	116	
C	1268	110	6 1/4"
F	1157	105	
c	945	90	9 1/4"
f	796	88	
c'	550	75	10 3/4"
f'	425	75	
c''	264	59	10 3/8"
f''	204	59	
c'''	125	51	9 7/8"
d'''	112	44	

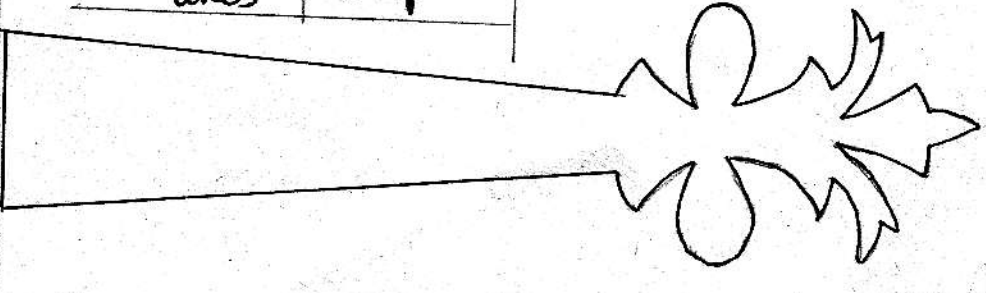


Keyboard width 700 12 1/2 thick
 3 Octave Span 473.
 Signed "CA" Key No 1.
 "Left" Key 54.

	Length -	Balance to tail	Displacement of tail
Bass	Nat	303	196
	Acc	270 270	185 No 3 177 No 4
Treble	Nat	262	165
	Acc	228	157

Naturals.	
Head.	33
tail	67
2. Score lines	5 apart.

Sharp tops.
 55 long.

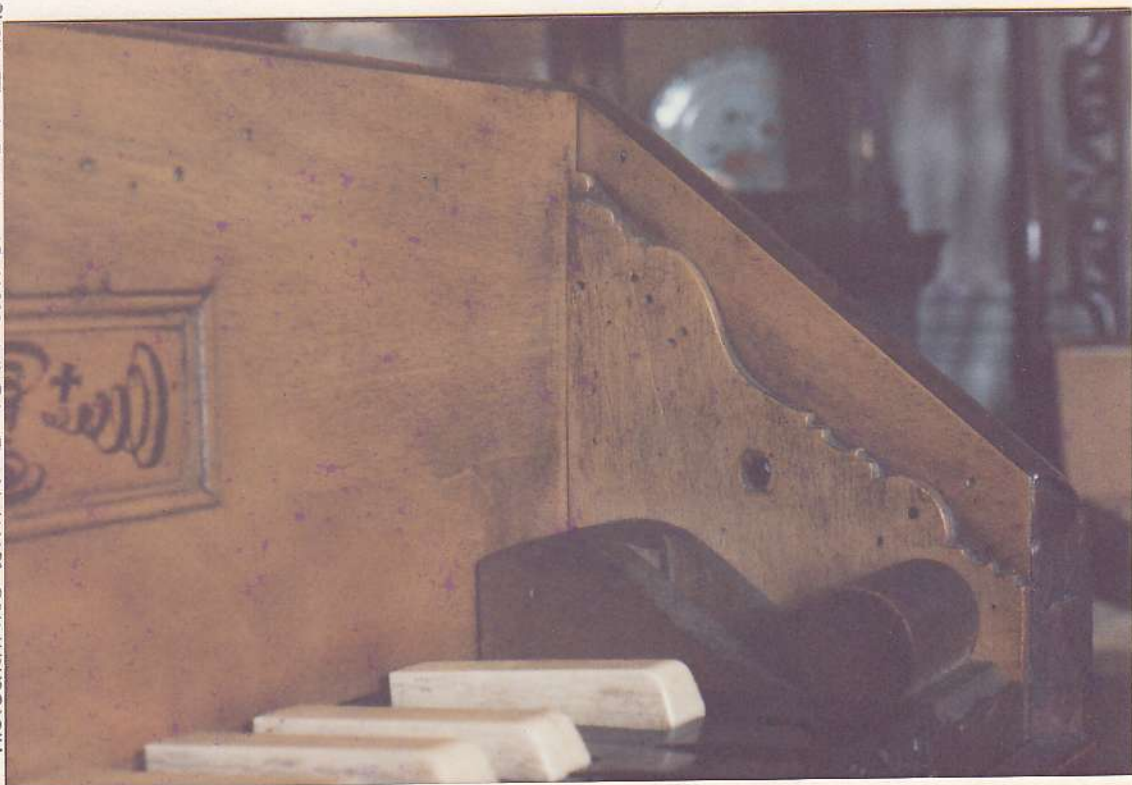




A1/2

John Player, undated Boalch No 6. Helmingham.

PHOTOGRAPHED WITH KIND PERMISSION OF LORD TOLLEMACHE



A1/30

Detail of keywell - end piece -

Boalch No: None

Signature: None except "C.A." on bottom key

Compass: GG/BB-d''' broken octave

Case: Walnut, finely patterned

Stand: Trestle with four turned legs, not original.

Hinges: Brass.

Angle to left of keyboard: Double

Dimensions:

Length
 Widest point not including keyboard
 Case height
 3 octave span

Note	String length	Plucking point	Relative scale
C	1310	111	7%"
c	954	98	9%"
c'	549	78	10%"
c''	265	64	10%"
c'''	130	48	10%"

Detailed description:

This spinet is almost identical to the last one in appearance, the soundboard mouldings around the box guide and wrestplank, the panelled nameboard and Italianate cheek pieces and the hinges are all the same, as is the extra front strip on the lid flap. The join between the bentside and the keywell shows poor workmanship. The end blocks do not have mortices for candlesticks, indicating that this is not an original feature on the other spinet. The case is internally veneered in pear as is the keywell.

Present owner: Richard Burnett



PHOTO MILES HELLON

PHOTOGRAPHED BY KIND PERMISSION OF RICHARD BURNETT



B3/5
Cawton Aston

Finchcocks.

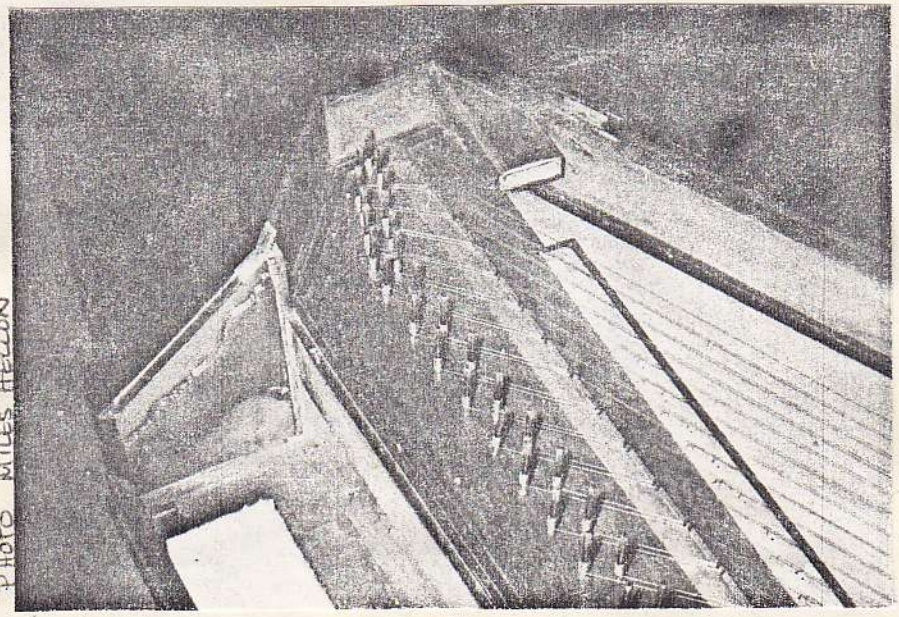


PHOTO MILES HELLON



PHOTOGRAPHED BY KIND PERMISSION OF DR. MIRREY

A8/63

Harpsichord by Thomas Barton 1709. Dr. Mirrey.

Boalch No: 1

Signature: Cawton Aston Londini Fecit N^o 268. A.D.1726

Compass: GG-g'''

Case: Highly figured walnut

Stand: Trestle with four pad-footed, turned legs

Hinges: Brass, chased. Also bentside lid hook.

Angle to left of keyboard: Curved

Dimensions:

Length 1785

Widest point not including keyboard 686

Case height

3 octave span

Note	String length	Plucking point	Relative scale
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Detailed description:

The keyboard has bone arcaded naturals and skunktailed sharps. The bentside is inlaid with satinwood lines, forming large rectangular panels. The keywell is veneered in contrasting grained walnut with inlaid bandings of box, ebony and walnut. The signature, which appears in an insert in the nameboard, is not very distinct. The music rest folds away behind the nameboard when not in use.

Present owner: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation



FOUNDATION



PHOTOS FROM THE COLONIAL WILLIAMS BEECH

Boa 1. Cawton Aston Londini Fecit No 268 A.D 1726.

- 1 Boalch. Appendix: Some London Apprentices 1622-1758. p 205
- 2 Boalch. p179. These letters were sold with the instrument by Sothebys on 16th December 1949.
- 3 p. 153
- 4 Boalch No. 2
- 5 Detailed on p. 27
- 6 No. 9. p. 21 of catalogue. Detailed here p. 30
- 7 Detailed p. 28
- 8 Christoph Bohr. See Boalch p. 16
- 9 Anonymous double manual spinet in the collection of Dr. Mirrey has 1 8', and 1 4'. Boalch p. 30 lists a Cristophori spinet with 2 8'.
- 10 Detailed p. 35
- 11 and 12
Boalch p. 6
- 13 Collection of Dr. Mirrey.
- 14 Sizergh Castle. Information supplied by Andrew Garrett.
- 15 Information Chris Nobbs.