

Antwerp Vleeshuis Museum Inventory Number	AV.2014.016.003
Common name / Nominal Pitch	Oboe in C
Type or system	Albert system
Maker	Albert, Jacques Fils
Mark, inscriptions	(sunburst) / JAC ^{ques} ALBERT / FILS / BRUXELLES / (sunburst) / BREVETE – on top joint; (sunburst) / JAC ^{ques} ALBERT / FILS / BRUXELLES / (sunburst) – on middle joint; (sunburst) / JAC ^{ques} ALBERT / FILS / (sunburst) – on bell.
Serial number	
Place of origin	Brussels
Date of making	First half of the 20th century.
Materials	Ebony (?), with silver plated keywork.
MEASUREMENTS:	
Body Length	599.4mm
Top Joint length (body + tenon)	233.8mm + 20.2mm
Middle Joint length (body +tenon)	240.3 + 20.3mm
Bell length	125.3mm
Acoustic Length	325.3mm
BORE:	
Minimal bore	c4.3mm
Reed well diameter	7.1mm
Reed or crook well depth (if cylindrical)	17.7mm
Bore at end of Top Joint	10mm
Bore at top of Middle Joint	10.3mm
Bore at end of Middle Joint	15.6mm
Bore at top of Bell	16.1mm
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION:	Albert system keywork, being a slightly modified Triebert system 6 ring keyed oboe. Keyhead type: flat (but slightly domed), round, arrowed. Metal lining: reed well, tenons, sockets, bell end ring.
Faults	The instrument is in rather poor condition. All keys are present, but the instrument shows many traces of wear and tear. There are some significant cracks.
Case	Case present (double case for oboe and EH), similar to some J. Albert oboe cases, with red velvet lining, so probably original, including space for a long English horn bell.
Playing Accessories	None
Usable Pitch	A=c435Hz with reed: total length 64.5mm / staple 42mm / tip width 8.5mm.
Performance Characteristics	Only a basic scale could be produced due to the poor condition of the instrument. The general impression, however, is of a fine instrument, giving a (typical Albert) wide and broad velvet sound.
Specific usage / Antecedents	Donated to the Vleeshuis Museum in 2014 by Mr Michael Scheck.
Further information on maker	Haine & Meeus (1986) pp.21-3. Romain (1979). Waterhouse (1993) p.4. Verdegem (2015) p.103.
Specific literature Reference about this instrument	
Illustration reference	
General literature (about this type of instrument)	Verdegem (2015) p.102 for the Albert system, and patent.
Comparable instruments	Jacques Albert oboe Brussels MIM 1991.068

Remarks	The Albert system was patented by Lucien Albert's father Jacques in 1900. See: <i>Recueil spécial des Brevets d'Invention</i> , 1900 (Bruxelles: Ministère de l'Intérieur), patent no.148204.
Bibliography	<p>William Waterhouse, <i>The New Langwill Index. A Dictionary of Musical Wind-Instrument Makers and Inventors</i> (London: Tony Bingham 1993).</p> <p>Malou Haine & Nicholas Meeùs, <i>Dictionnaire des facteurs d'instruments de musique en Wallonie et à Bruxelles</i> (Liège: Pierre Mardaga 1986).</p> <p>Pierre Romain, <i>Les Albert, facteurs de clarinettes à Bruxelles de 1839 à 1950</i> (Bruxelles, Thesis ULB 1979).</p> <p>Stefaan Verdegem, 'Fétis, Gevaert, Mahillon and the Oboe d'Amore', <i>The Galpin Society Journal</i> LXVIII (2015) pp.75-120.</p>

Data by Stefaan Verdegem, Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel, 2015.