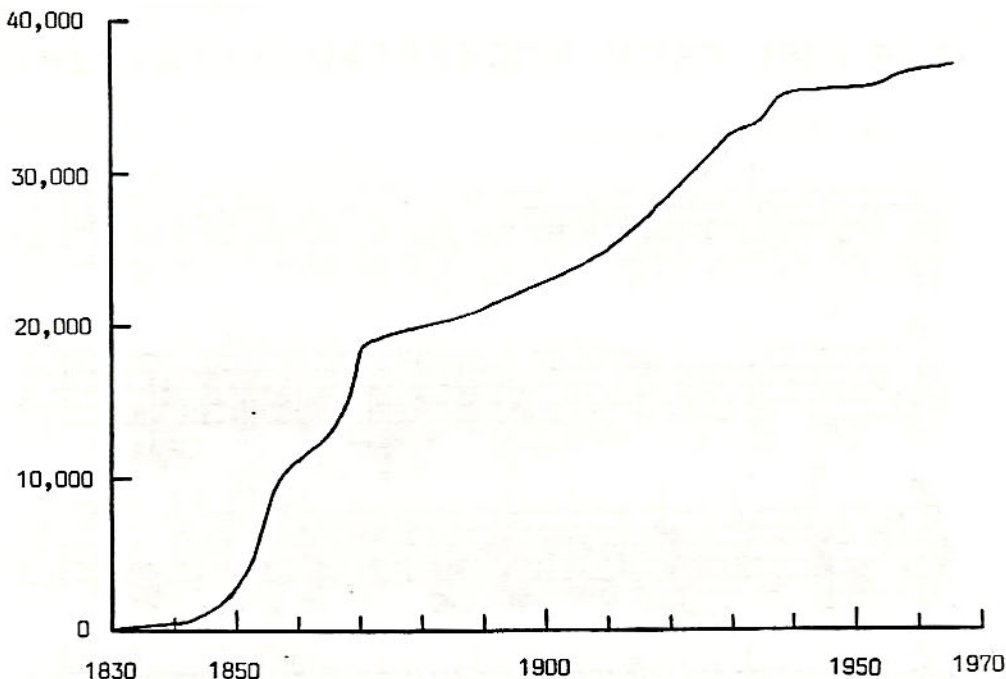


DATES FOR WHEATSTONE CONCERTINAS

Certainly one of the most popular questions asked is "how old is my concertina?" And often some of the 'guesstimates' given, especially by antique dealers, are obviously incorrect and give an age 20 - 50 years too early based on known dates when a given model was first produced. Thanks to Nigel Pickles from the U.K. we now have an answer for the ages of Wheatstone Concertinas, and the listing which he kindly sent to Concertina Magazine is reproduced below. Let's hope that at some time similar listings for other makes which show numbers could be available. However, other detailed records, with the exception of those for Crabb Concertinas, have probably been lost over the years and only broad

DATES OF MANUFACTURE OF WHEATSTONE CONCERTINAS.

1 - 499	1830/42	23500 - 23999	1904/06
500 - 999	1842/45	24000 - 24499	1906/08
1000 - 1499	1845/48	24500 - 24999	1908/10
1500 - 1999	1848/49	25000 - 25499	1910/12
2000 - 2499	1849/50	25500 - 25999	1912/13
2500 - 3499	1850/51	26000 - 26499	1913/14
3500 - 3999	1851/52	26500 - 26999	1914/16
4000 - 4999	1852/53	27000 - 27499	1916/17
5000 - 6999	1853/54	27500 - 27999	1917/19
7000 - 7999	1854/55	28000 - 28499	1919/20
8000 - 8999	1855/56	28500 - 28999	1920/21
9000 - 9999	1856/57	29000 - 29499	1921/22
10000 - 10999	1857/59	29500 - 29999	1922/24
11000 - 11999	1859/63	30000 - 30499	1924/25
12000 - 12999	1863/65	30500 - 30999	1925/26
13000 - 13999	1865/67	31000 - 31499	1926/27
14000 - 18499	1867/70	31500 - 31999	1927/29
18500 - 18999	1870/73	32000 - 32499	1929/30
19000 - 19499	1873/77	32500 - 32999	1930/33
19500 - 19999	1877/82	33000 - 33499	1933/35
20000 - 20499	1882/86	33500 - 33999	1935/36
20500 - 20999	1886/89	34000 - 34499	1936/37
21000 - 21499	1889/92	34500 - 34999	1937/38
21500 - 21999	1892/95	35000 - 35499	1938/45
22000 - 22499	1895/98	35500 - 35540	1945/51
22500 - 22999	1898/01	35541 - 36400	1951/57
23000 - 23499	1901/04	36401 - 36680	1957/



guidelines will ever become available.

In his article in issue #6 of the Magazine, Geoff Wooff drew attention to the use of graphs to illustrate the rates of concertina production; a graph of Wheatstone production is shown above. The graph clearly shows several points of interest. For example, it was only by 1850 that major production started and this continued at a high rate until 1870. In 1860 there was a slight lag in production, but the major change was from 1870 onwards. Presumably these declines could have resulted from increased competition from various sources? After the major decline in production in 1870, the subsequent rate showed a general slow increase (an increase in the gradient of the line) until the late 1930's. There was a slight decline during the depression, but barely any change during the Great War. On the other hand, the Second World War heralded the almost complete finish of concertina production with only one last gasp in the mid-1950's. What a delight it is that the instruments of the highest quality which bear the Wheatstone name are now again being produced in England by Steve Dickinson.

SOME NEW TUNES

Overleaf are interesting arrangements by Frank Butler of two Swedish tunes. These melodies were provided to Frank courtesy of Göran Rahm, an I.C.A. member from Sweden. Many thanks to Frank for sending the arrangements; we hope to include further of his arrangements in future issues.