Maurice STIASSNIE

An unrecognized French microscope maker, Heir and descendant of XIX Century microscope manufacturers

Alain BERJONVAL

Introduction

Owners of some microscopes manufactured by Maurice Stiassnie may well be surprised by the real absence of articles and information related to this optician who exercised his activity from the end of the 19th Century until the first half of the 20th Century. This prompted me to write this brief monograph.

History

It's maybe necessary to explain the creation of the firm Maurice Stiassnie in 1882 by his family links and his relationship which united him to Constant VERICK, his father-in-law.

In fact, Constant VERICK, optician, served his apprenticeship with the title of "Special pupil" with the manufacturer of microscopes Edmund HARTNACK, nephew himself of Georges OBERHAEUSER, (1798-1868), a well known optician and microscope maker of the 19th Century.

Edmund HARTNACK (1826-1891), was a Prussian microscope manufacturer who learned his craft in Berlin. In 1857, he joined the instrument factory of his uncle Georges OBERHAEUSER, based on 21,



place Dauphine in Paris where they set up a partnership named "Oberhaeuser & Hartnack" from 1857 until 1860. In 1860, he created his own company "Hartnack & Co, Paris and Potsdam" which was always based in 21, Place Dauphine in Paris as well as in 39, WaisenStrasse in Potsdam from 1857 until 1860.

He was one of the best opticians of his generation and a distinguished microscope maker of the second half of the 19th Century, with a reputation for high quality products. A similar microscope of his, Statif VIII, has been depicted by Albert EDELFELT's in his painting dated 1885, showing Louis PASTEUR at work in his laboratory. The French-Prussian conflict (1870 war), forced him to leave Paris in 1870 to manage the Potsdam factory.

Constant VERICK, after the departure of his mentor Edmund HARTNACK, took over in 1870 a workshop specializing in the manufacture of microscopes (L'atelier DEPENNE), locatated in 2, rue de la Parcheminerie, Paris. (From 1870 till 1885)

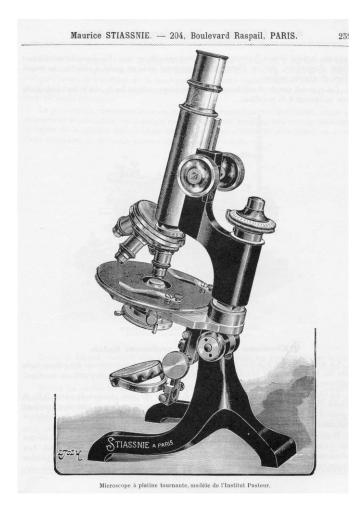
So, Maurice STIASSNIE, by means of his family relationship with Constant VERICK was in this way, the heir of this family of microscope makers of the 19th Century.

The Company

In fact, Maurice STIASSNIE, son-in-law of Constant VERICK, occupied the foreman's position at the Verick workshop before taking his succession in 1882.

First of all, the Company settled down at 43, rue des Ecole until 1905, before being established at 204, Boulevard Raspail in Paris. The signature on the body tube became "M.Stiassnie, Paris" or "M.Stiassnie, 204 Bd Raspail, Paris" instead of: "M on Verick, M.Stiassnie Suc", 43, rue des Ecoles, Paris ».





In 1922, a new firm was created in partnership with the brother of Maurice STIASSNIE under the name of "Stiassnie Frères, Paris" and was established at 67, Boulevard Blanqui in the 13th district of Paris in1930 or 1936. During this period a range of different stands were developed, including a lot of laboratory accessories and apparatus such as microtomes.

Unfortunately, the story of the firm ended sadly. After the second World War, the "Stiassnie Frères, Paris" Company was unable to compete with the post war German productions and went into bankruptcy.

An attempt to relaunch the Company under the name of "Sté Nouvelle de Microscopie Stiassnie" failed in 1970.



Some models of production

Here are some extracts of the 1905 catalog showing the microscopes manufactured at the time with photos of earlier Stiassnie microscope models (1900), until the later models C. 1920 & 1930.

Médailles d'Or aux Expositions Universelles de Paris 1889-1948

MAISON VÉRICK

MAISON VÉRICK

MAURICE STIASSNIE

Overvoor

SUCCESSEUR DE VÉRICK . 1882

Officier de l'Instruction publique, Chevalier du Mérite Agricole

Fournisseur de l'Institut Pasteur

de la Faculté des Sciences, du Collège de France, de l'Ecole de Hartes Études
de la Faculté de Médecine, de l'École de Plantancie, de l'Assistance publique
des Ministères de l'Institution publique, des Colonies, du Commerce
de la Guerre et de la Marine, des Lyoése et Collèges, des l'échtaux civils et militaires
des principales Facultés françaises et étrangères, etc.

MICROSCOPES

ET

RPPRREILS ACCESSOIRES

pour les Études micrographiques

Catalogue descriptif et Prix Courant

204, Boulevard Raspail, PARIS (14 Arr)

Anciennement: 43, Rue des Écoles, 43

Téléphone 705-79 METROPOLITAIN, STATIONS RASPAIL

(c. 1905)







Stiassnie-Verick
Earlier Models C.1900

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Maurice Stiassnie microscopes Circa 1920

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Maurice Stiassnie microscopes C. 1930 and later

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Stiassnie, M. (1905) – Catalogue des « Microscopes et appareils accessoires pour les études micrographiques »

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