

T · U · B · A JOURNAL

FOR · EUPHONIUM · AND · TUBA

...to maintain a liaison among those who take a significant interest in the instruments of the tuba and euphonium family—
their development, literature, pedagogy, and performance.

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Jerry A. Young, Editor

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Tuba Players of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, 1913-1987

by Douglas Yeo

Bass Trombonist, Boston Symphony Orchestra

Since its founding in 1881, there have been twelve tuba players in the Boston Symphony Orchestra. During the orchestra's early years (1881-1912), seven players came and went, several staying for only one season. But beginning in 1913, tuba players came to the BSO to stay, and five players have had long and colorful careers in the BSO since then.

This article is a companion to the one in the Fall, 1986 *ITA Journal*, where the reader can find my "Pictorial History of Low Brass Players in the Boston Symphony Orchestra, 1887-1986." At the request of Don Little, who saw the 26 photos I selected for that article, I have compiled a few photographs that should be of interest to tuba players in particular. All but one were found in the archives of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Dates of the photos are often at best approximations; the archives is unfortunately in a state of confusion, and these pictures were found after many hours of careful searching through boxes and files—

often in the most unlikely places. Photos of several tenor tubists have been included here as well.

I must thank Eleanor McGourty and William Moyer of the BSO for their assistance in helping me gain access to these important photographs.

This first photo (below) of the BSO brass section in 1914, was given to me by Arthur Ephross, Director of Publications for Southern Music Company. It is the only known photograph of tubist P. Mattersteig, who played with the Boston Symphony from 1913-1920. Nothing can be found of him in the records of the orchestra. He was succeeded by A. Lehman, who played for only the second half of the 1919-20 season. Records show he joined the orchestra after an ill-fated strike. One can presume that Mattersteig was fired for his participation in that labor dispute.

Eugene Adam (1918-1947) had an extremely varied

Photo No. 1. Boston Symphony Orchestra Brass Section (1914). Low Brass Players, standing: LeRoy Kenfield, bass trombone; A. Mausebach, second trombone. Seated: P. Mattersteig, tuba; M. Alloo, principal trombone.



Photo No. 2.
BSO Brass Section, 1921

Low Brass Players (left to right), standing:
LeRoy Kenfield,
A. Mausebach.
Seated:
Eugene Adam (tuba),
Carl Hampe (Principal).



career. He began his tenure as Principal Trombone of the BSO in 1918. However, he, too, had the bad judgement to take part in the strike of 1920 (the only one in BSO history) that resulted in his being demoted to Assistant Principal Trombone. In 1920, he began playing some tuba, and for eleven years he played both trombone and tuba as needed until switching completely to tuba in 1934. Born in Metz, France in 1881, he retired in 1947 after 29 years in the Boston Symphony. He died in 1964.

Little is known of Paul Sidow (1923-1933). The last five years of his BSO career were spent sharing the tuba chair with Adam. Of interest in this photo is Adam holding his trombone, and the presence of Joannes Rochut, who played principal trombone from 1925-1930, and is known to generations of brass players for his adaptation of vocalises by Marco Bordogni.



Photo 3.
Paul Sidow, 1927

Photo No. 4.
BSO Brass Section, 1925

Low Brass Players
(left to right), standing:
Leroy Kenfield,
Eugene Adam (Assistant),
Lucien Hansotte (Second),
Joannes Rochut (Principal)
and Paul Sidow (Tuba).

Photo Credits: Horner Studios, BSO, Inc., Elizabeth Timberman, John Brook, Boris and Milton, J.E. Purdy, Lincoln Russell, Bela Kalman.

Photo No. 5.



This rare photo (*Photo 5*) contains a lot of history. Kilton Vinal Smith (1935–1966) is shown holding his euphonium. Hired as assistant trombone after Adam had switched to full-time tuba, he played both euphonium and trombone until 1947 when he succeeded Adam on tuba. This photo was taken on the occasion of the premiere of Roy Harris' *Symphony No. 5* in 1943. The others in the photo are (*left to right*) Roger Voisin, Paul Keaney, Harry Shapiro (currently Assistant Personnel Manager of the BSO), Walter MacDonald, Roy Harris, Wilhelm Valkenier (first horn, who died in May, 1986 at the age of 99), and Rene Voisin, father of Roger Voisin.

Photo No. 6.



This classic picture of Adam shows the elegant Frenchman near his retirement in 1947. He is sitting on a string bass trunk, a favorite warm-up spot of brass players.

Photo No. 7.



Shown here, *ca.* 1938, are Jacob Raichman (who succeeded Rochut on principal trombone), Lucien Hansotte, Waldemar Lillebach, Kilton Vinal Smith, and Eugene Adam on stage at Symphony Hall, Boston, with no room to spare.



Photo No. 8.



Photo No. 9.

Photo No. 10.



Photo No. 11.



These four photos (*Photo Nos. 8, 9, 10, and 11*) of Kilton-Vinal Smith show some of the various instruments he used during his career. His tenure is remarkable for the fact that

he played everything on an "F" tuba. Born in Vinal Haven, Maine in 1909, he retired in 1966 to return to his ancestral home where he still lives today.

Photo No. 12. BSO Brass Ensemble, 1956, Scotland — Kilton Vinal Smith, Tuba; Josef Orosz, Euphonium.



Taken in Scotland on the 1956 European tour, this photo (Photo 12) is of a brass ensemble concert given by members of the Boston Symphony. Shown are Kilton Vinal Smith, tuba, and Josef Orosz, euphonium. Orosz (1944-1970) played assistant trombone until 1966, when he moved to second trombone. In addition to covering all trombone

parts, he played first trombone in the Boston Pops, euphonium and tuba on occasion. Also shown are trumpets Rogers Voisin and Armando Ghitalla, trombones William Gibson and Kauko Kahila, and horns Harold Meek and Charles Yanchich.



Photo No. 13. Chester Schmitz, 1967.

Photo No. 14. Chester Schmitz, 1982.



Photo No. 15. Chester Schmitz, 1984.

A graduate of the University of Iowa, Chester Schmitz has been tubist with the Boston Symphony since Kilton Vinal Smith retired in 1966. From 1963 to 1966, he was a member of the U.S. Army Band in Washington, D.C. where, in addition to playing the tuba, he played string bass in the White House Orchestra. He has been a soloist with both the Boston Symphony and Boston Pops Orchestra, most recently in 1985 when he gave the world premiere of John Williams' *Tuba Concerto* which was dedicated to him. Considering the euphonium to be a tenor tuba, he has always played the tenor tuba parts himself, and with great success (as evidenced by three recordings of the Holst *Planets* with Steinberg and Ozawa and the BSO and John Williams with the Boston Pops to be released in the coming months; *Ein Heldenleben* with Ozawa; and the recently released *Don Quixote* with Ozawa and Yo-Yo Ma). In fact, on the Steinberg *Planets* recording, Chester plays the tenor tuba solos on an "F" tuba. He is shown here with his tubas (Alexander and Hirshbrunner) and warming up (with assistant principal trumpet Charles Daval in the Concertgebouw) on his Besson euphonium. When the score requires it, he also plays a slide cimballo/contrabass trombone in "F." In addition to being interested in numerous sports, various church-related activities, and beekeeping, Chester is on the faculty of the Boston Conservatory of Music.

About the Author: Douglas Yeo has been bass trombonist of the Boston Symphony since 1985, having held the same position with the Baltimore Symphony from 1981-1985. He is a member of the Board of Advisors of the International Trombone Association, and has had numerous articles published in the *ITA Journal*, *T.U.B.A. Journal*, *The Instrumentalist*, *Christianity Today*, and the Christian Instrumental Directors Association (C.I.D.A.) *Newsletter*. He is on the faculty of the New England Conservatory of Music.