

The Insurance of Musical London and the Sun Fire Office 1710–1779

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The year of the policy and the total sum insured have also been extracted from the registers; for the years 1710-19 no monetary valuations were recorded and these policies are marked "no insured amount". Harpsichord makers not recorded in Boalch, Makers of the Harpsichord, organ builders not recorded in the Directory of British Organ Builders, (accessed 18 November 2012), plus William Green, the one music printer not recorded in Humphries and Smith, Music Publishing, are marked with a . A fire started on September 2nd in the King's bakery in Pudding Lane near London Bridge. Fires were quite a common occurrence in those days and were soon quelled. Indeed, when the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Thomas Bloodworth was woken up to be told about the fire, he replied "Pish! A woman might piss it out!". However that summer had been very hot and there had been no rain for weeks, so consequently the wooden houses and buildings were tinder dry. The fire soon took hold: 300 houses quickly collapsed and the strong east wind spread the flames further, jumping from house to house. The fire swept Exchange House Fire Office, 1708-1710. Sun Insurance Office Ltd, 1891-1959. Sun Alliance Group, 1959-1996. Royal and Sun Alliance, 1996- The business was taken over by the Company of London Insurers in 1710 and formally constituted as a partnership known as the Sun Fire Office. The company has had a number of addresses within the City of London. Initially the business of the new company was conducted from a room in Causey's coffee house in St Paul's Churchyard, moving to an office in Sweetings Rents near the Royal Exchange in 1711. The city office subsequently moved to Threadneedle street (1727 - 1763), Cornhill (1763 - 1766), Bank Street (1766 - 1843 and Bartholomew Street (1843 onwards).