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Stephen Simpson, United Kingdom, Happy Cow Music, previously arranged and punched for the 20-note scale, but is no longer participating. Finally, Edi Hofmann, Germany was the arranger I was unable to contact. His arrangements remain available through other vendors as listed.

There you have it, not quite an all-inclusive roundup of 20-note arrangers and vendors. Do not hesitate to establish

an email repoire with any of them. As of this writing (November 2008), currency exchange rates are quite favorable for US buyers. Finally. please call or email me if you would like to hear an arrangement played on the Raffin 20/78. If I have the tune or roll I'll crank it to assist in your purchase decision. I suspect most grinders would do the same upon request. Thanks for reading this, and stay in tune!

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A Note from the Membership Chairman

The status of the COAA Membership is as follows:

- * We started 2008 with 428 members and ended with 463 members (we gained 35 new members in 2008).
- * We had 34* members (7.3%) that did not renew. Therefore we will start 2009 with 429 members.
- * Bottom line: the COAA membership increased by 1 member from 2008 to 2009.

New members are crucial to the life of the organization. As a current member, you can help gain new members by talking up the benefits of COAA.

To help you with this effort, COAA will run an end-of-the-season **Half Price Special**. Join after December 1st for \$15 (half price) and receive a six-month membership and the last two journals (January & April) of the year plus the Rally Edition. This special is limited to new memberships; it is not for renewals.

Death and poor health accounted for about 25% of nonrenewals. Financial hardship accounted for about 15% of the nonrenewals. "No longer collecting Band Organs" accounts for about 15% of the nonrenewals. The remaining chose not to renew for reasons that are not known.

Provenance of the Ames 70-key Decap Dutch Street Organ (pictured on the right, page 33)

One of the most emotional moments during my first visit to the United States in 1993 was seeing the Decap Dutch 70-key organ in the collection of Mike and Marilyn Ames in Solana Beach, California. This was because it was one of the first organs I saw in my early life in the Netherlands. It is a pleasure to tell the story of this organ to all my friends, in America and elsewhere, who are interested in the history of old European instruments.

In 1925, Piet Timmermans, who operated a street organ rental business in Rotterdam, became the sole representative of the Decap Brothers, organ builders in Antwerp, Belgium. Now everyone who wanted to buy a Decap organ had to go to the Timmermans and so did Mr. F.G. van Leeuwen, carousel owner of Haarlem, Holland, who wanted a new organ for his ride. The organ was delivered in 1928 and was named *Decap en Co*. After some time the son of Mr. van Leeuwen, named Henk, took over the business and painted his own name on the organ.

In 1948, Henk van Leeuwen bought a new ride called a swing mill, and the organ was prepared to play with this ride. It was rebuilt by the famous firm of G. Perlee and a bourdon register stop was added to the organ. This register was made by Perlee's half-brother, Karel Struys, who also made the extraordinary bourdon stop for *The Arab*, the world-famous street organ of the Perlee Company. The swing mill was a magnificent ride painted with jazz celebrities such as Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, and Gene Krupa. To fit with this ride, the organ was painted with a Negro conductor and a saxophone and guitar. This is how I remember the *van Leeuwen* when I first saw it in my hometown of Haarlem during the Fair for the birthday of our queen.

Henk van Leeuwen was a fine gentleman who always wore a nice suit, tie and hat. He never touched a piece of his ride—for that he employed a staff of workers. After many years, he sold the swing mill with the organ to Mr. Hoefnagels, another showman from Helmond, Holland. Hoefnagels also came to the Haarlem Fair, but with a ride called a Cake-walk, which had moving stairs and bridges and so on. The organ was also repainted again to match up with paintings of Elvis Presley, Paul Anka, Cliff Richard and Brigitte Bardot which were all over the ride.

After many years the organ was not used any more and was stored in a warehouse owned by the Hoefnagels family.

One day in 1975, while living in the town of Breda, Netherlands, my friend, Andreis Neleman, asked me to come over to his place because he was expecting a phone call from a dealer who wanted to offer him an organ. The dealer would play it through the phone and I had to tell Neleman which organ it was. From the first notes my answer was "This is the Decap of Henk van Leeuwen."

COAA Logo Apparel



COAA logo apparel from Joan's Jeweled Tee's (see page three for ordering). Top left: hooded pullover sweatshirt; sweatshirt; hooded zipped sweatshirt; and vest. Middle row: jacket; pocket tee shirt; tee shirt; and billed hat; Bottom row: polo knit shirts in blue and white; and tote bag. Items available in navy blue, royal blue, red and white.

In 1980 the Decap came upon the streets of Breda, Holland. Neleman did a complete rebuilding, added a side chest with cello pipes, placed a keyframe inside the case, and placed the bourdon register in front of the other pipes. In the meantime, I arranged and cut a lot of music for the organ. Because of the three women painted on the front, Mr. Neleman had a naughty name for the organ. Neleman used to bring out a different organ each year; as a result, the Decap was sold to Wies Schwagten of Tilburg, who sold it again to a collector in France, and when this collector died, the organ came back to Holland. It was then sold to Arthur Prinsen of St. Niklaas, Belgium, who then sold it to its present owners.

In this collection it is beautifully painted again with all the original names on it. I know the organ will entertain its new owners and many others for a long time to come.

Maartn van der Vlugt



70-key Decap Dutch Street Organ

Book and MIDI-operated (many books and files come with organ).

mp3 recording available. Contact ames@foxtail.com

\$85,000.00