

References

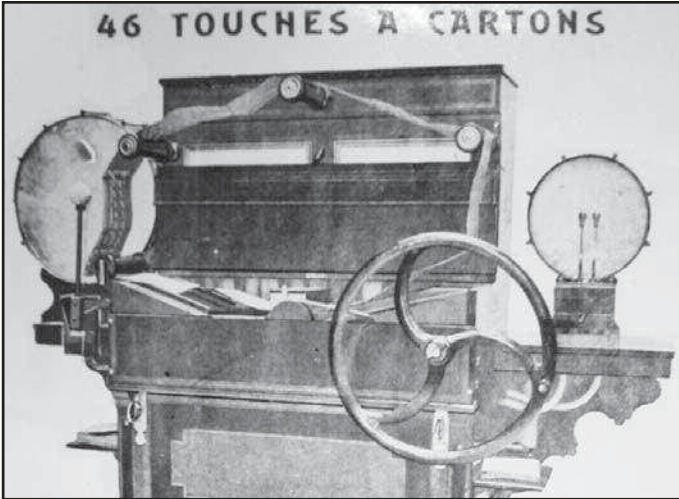


Figure 78. An illustration of a 46-key book-operated Gavioli organ. The book is an endless book which circulates around the top of the rear of the organ. The book appears to be held up by a set of spindles.

Photo: Fred Dahlinger

Conclusion

In reviewing the myriad of mechanical musical instruments utilizing the book-operated system it becomes apparent that all were an attempt to escape the limitations of a previous operating system, whether it was a pinned barrel (cob or cylinder) or a circular disc, used by that particular manufacturer (inventor) or of a competitor.

Over 30 such attempts have been examined. Most have succumbed to more modern methods although book-operated fair and street organs are still in existence and being used, and some current manufacturers continue to produce organs that play with the cardboard book system.

To reiterate, the rhythmic and mechanical motion of the traveling/weaving book adds another dimension to the realm of enjoying a truly mechanical musical instrument.

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now a music room with things that play A-Rolls and O-Rolls. Much of my free time is spent in restoration projects like the just finished Steinway Upright Duo Art or Wurlitzer 125 in process.

I am amazed at the ingenuity and craftsmanship of the people who have developed mechanical music and those that keep it alive today. Like many of you we have been blessed with the friendship of COAA and MBSI members willing to share their time, knowledge and skill.

Any regrets? Only one, that we did not find these organizations earlier.

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In memory of . . .

Walter P. Bellm, long time collector, museum owner, and Past President of the Music Box Society, passed on November 28, 2010. In 1965 Walt acquired Horn's Cars of Yesterday museum in Sarasota, Florida and changed it to Bellm's Cars & Music of Yesterday. The collection was sold in 1997 but the museum building still stands, again housing a collection of vintage cars.

