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## Treasurer's Report

Paul Bellamy summaries the latest financial information of AMBC and also provides a tribute to the late Chris Fynes, a founder member. Many people will be familiar with the articles he wrote and the CDs he produced of his musical snuff boxes. However, they will probably be unaware of his other many skills. He did pioneering work for the British Broadcasting Corporation, which included humorous cartoon graphics and images of politicians and other notables. His musical talent was not just as a highly skilled bell ringer but also his understanding of the complex bell-ringing programmes for different sets of bells. He gave Paul his archive of photographs from which he hopes to produce articles for this Journal in the future. Chris spent many patient hours in producing our AMBC books and articles. Paul has published the account of his life on the website where it will reach a far wider audience.

## Auction Team Breker's next sale - 13th May 2023

Details of the latest Breker auction at their saleroom in Köln, Germany are described with accompanying photographs. It includes eighty-five lots of mechanical music interest, including gramophones and phonographs. Perhaps the rarest is an example of a Paul Ehrlich coin-operated automatic flute in a case with decorative panels and playing 11 3/4" Ariston organette discs. It contains 26 wood pipes.

Amongst the smaller items are rolls for a dozen or more different instruments, books on mechanical music, a variety of cylinder boxes, four musical photo albums, miniature street pianos, organettes and musical toys.

One of the finest musical boxes has to be the splendid mandoline forte-piano cylinder box, possibly by Paillard, Vaucher in an inlaid ebonised case with canted corners. It has a 17" cylinder.

## Henry Seymour – the man who invented Hi-Fi by David Evans



### David Evans remembers the forgotten giant of the British gramophone world, Henry Seymour.

Very little acoustic improvement had been made in music reproduction since the first machines of 1900. Until, that is, Henry Albert Seymour (26 Jan 1860 Bromley – 3 Feb 1938) of London started to experiment. He was probably the only man in England who had made a detailed study of acoustics as applied to record reproduction. His experiments led him to make improvements to wax cylinders, reproducers, recording apparatus, gramophones and disc records, matrices and master blanks.

Henry inspired and even made most of the parts for the early E.M.G Handmade Gramophones. In fact they were his SUPERPHONE in different cabinets. Supplying parts could quite possibly have been his way to still be in the industry, albeit behind the scenes. He supplied parts, not only to E.M.G but also to many other manufacturers, including Vesper.



### An Update on Scumble!!

In Issue 31 (Winter 2022, page 8) MMW published a meeting report that included an article about a patent for scumble. Scumble was, and remains, a way of reproducing a wood-grain effect on cheap wood that can simulate the grain of expensive woods, including veneers such as mahogany, walnut, etc. It was used to great effect on the cases of many musical boxes, thereby cutting down the cost of production.

The article was based on an ancient patent document that Ted Brown had rescued from oblivion. The document was written on velum, a type of paper or parchment made from thin translucent animal skin. The hand-written description was more like a pastry-cook's cake-mix than a formula for an artist's material, with words for ingredients in common use in the late 1800s that have long since been forgotten; though not by Paul Baker! who tells us the meanings of some of the words he knew that described the components of the patent.

### Second supplement to the book:- "Cylinder Musical Box: Tune Sheets, Agents, Makers & Dates"

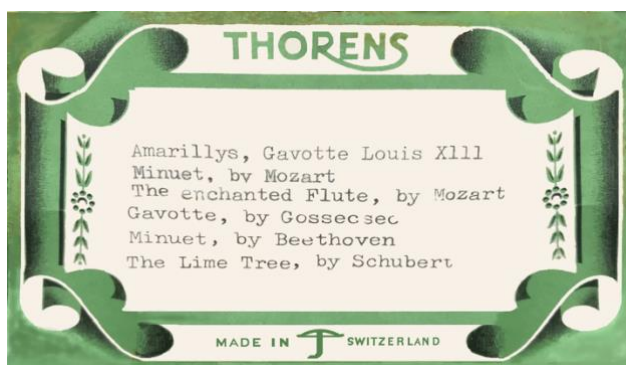
Paul Bellamy provides the following additions: -

Addition to Chapter 16: François Nicole & Nicole Frères

Addition to Chapter 19, PVF and Paillard- Vaucher et fils.

Additions to Chapter 29: Other makers and agents.

Addition to Chapter 30, unattributed tune sheets



T2-3. Thorens.

T2.4-1. Thorens.

Including photographs of the Sheet Music and Tune sheets

### **A Visit to the Amersham Fair Organ Museum** by David Soulsby

David describes his trip to a shabby industrial estate in Buckinghamshire to visit the many Fair Organs in the Museum's collection. The article describes his meeting with one of the museum's trustees, Ray



Elliott, who tells about the history of everything on display. The collection had been assembled by Teddy Reed over a period of years and he had set up a Charitable Trust to establish and maintain 'a museum of Fairground organs and other memorabilia'.

He had only passed away in December, aged 96 and was a regular attendee at the monthly meetings up until then.

Ray had only recently written Teddy's obituary and was able to share some details of his life and the background to the acquisition of the organs and the fairground rides that they had been part of. The museum includes instruments by Gavioli, Marengi, Hooghuys, Wilhelm Bruder Söhne and the Weber brothers. The article describes these together with photographs of many of the most interesting.



### **Restoration of a George Baker cartel musical box.** By Bernard Novell

Bernard describes his purchase of an 1897 musical box at a recent auction. He was attracted to it initially as the case was in good condition. The movement however was another story.

The mechanism must have been dismantled many times in the past, using poor tools as all the screws were mangled. The cylinder had a lot of badly bent pins, many were missing or broken, way over the 10% that might be acceptable if spread about. Also, there was a small but deep gouge on the cylinder. Bernard decided to try and tackle some of the issues himself and dismantled everything ready for cleaning.

His article is a forensic study on how he carried out the project with detailed photographs shown every step along the way. You can see and hear this box at [www.bernysmusicboxes.co.uk/450-george-baker.html](http://www.bernysmusicboxes.co.uk/450-george-baker.html)

