



NEWSLETTER

Of The

American Musical Instrument Society

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David A. Sutherland works on the "Giusti" harpsichord from the Stearns Collection at the University of Michigan.

Harpsichord Restoration Underway at U. of Michigan

Restoration is well underway on the Italian harpsichord ("Giusti") in the Stearns Collection at the University of Michigan. According to David A. Sutherland of Ann Arbor, Michigan, who is in charge of the project, the

restoration is proceeding in order and without major difficulties.

Structural repair — the shimming of soundboard cracks, the re-installation of the bridge, the replacement of the hitchpins, and the securing of the wrestplank — is reported to be well along, with the instrument scheduled to be strung early this spring.

A new keyboard is being made for the instrument, while the original jacks

and guides will be used as a basis for restoring the action (about half of the original jacks are extant in usable form).

It is hoped that detailed construction drawings made during the restoration will eventually be made available. Sutherland is scheduled to present a detailed report on the restoration during the AMIS meeting in Winston-Salem, April 23.

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AMERICAN MUSICAL
INSTRUMENT SOCIETY
André P. Larson, Editor

The Newsletter is published in March, June, and October for the members of the American Musical Instrument Society (AMIS). News items, photos, reviews, and short monographs are welcomed. Address all correspondence to the Editor, USD Box 194, The University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069. Requests for back issues should be sent to William Maynard, 17 Lincoln Avenue, Massapequa Park, NY 11762.

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Information Request

Andrew Stiller of SUNY at Buffalo is writing a manual of instrumentation in which he wants to include "the various ancient instruments that have been widely resuscitated in recent years," including woodwinds (trill fingerings, extension tones) and strings (highest note—on or beyond the fingerboard, harmonics, and so on) and any unique, non-traditional, or "avant-garde" techniques. Assistance will be acknowledged in the book. Write: Andrew Stiller, 419 Crescent Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14214.

Auction Record Set

An estimated 800 people attended an auction of musical instruments at Sotheby Parke Bernet, Inc. in New York City on Friday, October 29, 1976, at which 157 instruments brought a record total of \$515,160, the previous record having been set on May 8, 1975, at Sotheby's in London with a total of \$424,437.

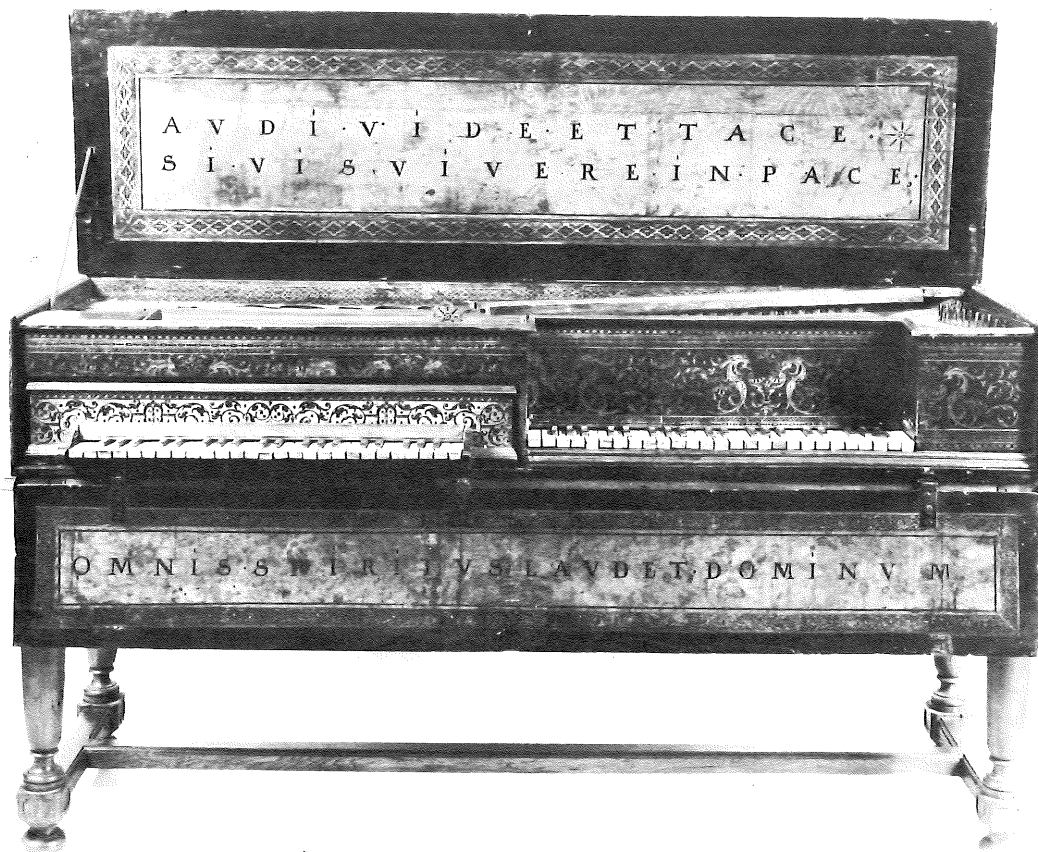
Prices for the individual instruments ranged from a low of \$40.00 to a high of \$80,000 for a Stradivarius violin, the "Mackenzie Stradivari" of 1685. Another Stradivarius, known as the "Prince Uchtomsky Stradivari," realized \$60,000.

A double virginal by Hans Ruckers the Younger, made in Antwerp in 1623, brought \$65,000 from an anonymous buyer; an auction sale of the last important Ruckers instrument in 1969 brought \$22,080.

Among the other instruments of particular interest were a two-manual harpsichord by Charles Trute & Wiedberg of Philadelphia, 1794, re-built by John Challis, 1952 (\$15,500), a violin by Petrus Guarnerius of Mantua, 1702 (\$30,000), a violoncello by Nicolo Amati of Cremona, 1667 (\$37,500), and a violoncello by Jean Baptiste Vuillaume, ca. 1840 (\$16,000).



"Mackenzie" Stradivarius



Double Virginals by Hans Ruckers the Younger (1623) realizes \$65,000.



Flentrop Organ Installed

AMIS members attending the 1977 meeting in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, may wish to make plans to visit Durham, North Carolina, in order to view the new Flentrop organ which has been installed at Duke University.

The Flentrop organ over the entrance to Duke Chapel contains more than 5,000 speaking pipes distributed over five keyboards, four of which are played by the hands and one by the feet. There are two cases, connected only by the key action and the wind supply: the main case, and the smaller Rugwerk which is situated in front of the main case on the gallery rail. The main case rises approximately 40 feet above the gallery

floor, and is only about 4½ feet deep. It is made of solid mahogany, decorated with stains of various hues and gold leaf. The Rugwerk case is about 10 feet high and 4 feet deep, decorated in harmonized colors. The gallery itself, built for this instrument, is constructed of solid oak in the classical style.

The instrument was built in Zaandam, Holland, at the famous organ shop of D. A. Flentrop. From the signing of the contract until completion, it took six years for planning, design, and final construction. The organ was entirely set up in the workshop and then dismantled before being packed for ocean shipping to the United States.

Both tonally and visually, the new instrument reflects the techniques and

the tonal structure of Dutch-French organs of the early 18th century – the Golden Age of organ composition. Because of its location in a magnificent and well-suited Gothic structure, the instrument will recreate in the most realistic way possible the great compositions of Bach, Couperin, and many other composers whose music form the foundation of a great literature.

The organ was played for the first time on Sunday, December 12, 1976 – celebrated as Founders Day in the life of the Duke University community – by Professor Fenner Douglass. On December 13 the University hosted an organ seminar-symposium. Papers were read by Charles Fisk, noted American organ builder from Gloucester, Massachusetts; Professor Peter Williams, editor of *The Organ Yearbook*, University of Edinburgh, Scotland; John Fesperman, curator of musical instruments at the Smithsonian Institution; and Robert Newman, acoustical consultant (Bolt, Beranek and Newman).

Respondents were Professor Charles Krigbaum, organist, Yale University; Professor Joan Lippincott, organist, Westminster Choir College; David Boe, Dean, Oberlin College Conservatory; and Dr. James Ferguson, Jr., Chapel Hill, North Carolina. An introductory to the symposium was given by the Rev. Geoffrey Cave, liturgist and canon-presenter, Washington National Cathedral.

The Duke University Chapel is open daily, 8 am - 5 pm.

Classified Column

Advertisements of interest to AMIS members may be placed in this space. Twenty words or less cost \$5.00 for each issue. Checks, made payable to AMIS, must be included with your copy to the Editor.

FOR SALE: Aeolian pipe organ. 2 manual/17 ranks, newly rebuilt. \$7500/best offer. Stephen I. Bartlett, 3 Beckford Street, Gloucester, MA 01930.

FOR SALE: Key bugle; ophicleide; Baroque, 4 and 8 key flutes; boxwood clarinet, others. K. Reed, Box 1176, Mendocino, CA 95460. (707) 964-5569.

VIOLAS DA GAMBA in two authentic 16th century Italian patterns by James Cox of Baltimore. Available now at early music dealers.

WANTED: Old, pre-World War II Gibson, Martin, Vega, Bacon-Day, Stewart, etc. string instruments: guitars, mandolins, banjos, etc. Photos appreciated and returned. David E. Eisner, House of Musical Traditions, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411.

Musical Instrument Makers Exhibition

Musical instrument makers in the United States are invited to submit instruments they have made for inclusion in a national exhibition now being organized by two museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the Renwick Gallery of the National Collection of Fine Arts and the National Museum of History and Technology, Division of Musical Instruments.

The exhibition will include approximately seventy-five musical instruments and will be shown at the Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C., from March 1978 until January 1979.

Instruments will be chosen mainly from the work of professional instrument makers. A panel of musicians and instrument makers will make the initial selection from 35 mm color slides. As many as three instruments may be submitted by an individual. Instruments will be judged on the basis of beauty of design, workmanship, and function.

An entry fee is not required. Deadline for receipt of all slide entries is April 15, 1977. Final selection will be made during May and June 1977, after each instrument selected from slides has been examined and played.

For specific information, send self-addressed envelope to:

Musical Instrument Makers Exhibition
Division of Musical Instruments
National Museum of History and Technology
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560

AMIS ELECTIONS

Enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter are a mail-in ballot, a ballot envelope, and a return envelope for mailing your ballot. Also enclosed is a brief biography of each candidate. Please return your ballot promptly!

NEW PUBLICATION

Stuart-Morgan Vance, long-time AMIS member, has published a *Woodwind Comparative Fingering Chart* which is available from the author for \$5.00, including postage. Write: Stuart-Morgan Vance, 3718 Sallee Lane, Louisville, KY 40222.

ORGAN TOUR

Professor Warren Hutton of the University of Alabama (Box 2876, University, AL 35486) will lead a European organ study tour, May 18 - June 8, 1977. If interested, contact Professor Hutton immediately.

NEW SOCIETY

A Viola d'Amore Society of America has been formed recently. For further information, write: Dr. Myron Rosenblum, 39-23 47th Street, Sunnyside, NY 11104.

American Musical Instrument Society Sixth Annual National Meeting April 22 - 24, 1977

Salem College, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Friday, April 22

Salem College Fine Arts Center

- 1:00-5:00 pm Registration
1:00-4:30 pm Tour of Old Salem
Open House, Moravian Music Foundation
Open House, Wachovia Museum Instrument Collection
8:15 pm Concert by John Mueller on the Flentrop organ at Salem College

Saturday, April 23

Salem College Fine Arts Center

- 9:00 am Registration
9:30 am Papers: American Topics
Karl Kroeger, "Church Gallery Orchestras in New England."
Daniel W. Patterson, "Shaker Monochords and Other Shaker Instructional Instruments."
Robert E. Eliason, "J. Lathrop Allen and E. G. Wright: Boston Brass Instrument Makers."
Sally Gant, "Early Craftsmen in the South - Musical Instruments and Their Makers."
12:00 Lunch, Salem College Dining Room
1:30 pm Papers: Keyboard Instruments
Rudolph Kremer, "The Rationale of Keyboard Construction Viewed Historically."
David Sutherland, "The Restoration of the 'Giusti' Harpsichord."
Walter E. Mann, "Charles Taws: an Early Philadelphia Piano Maker."
3:15 pm Concert by Margaret Mueller on the Tannenberg organ, the Brothers' House
5:00 pm Cocktail Hour, Salem College Fine Arts Center
6:15 pm Banquet, Salem Tavern
8:15 pm Concert, North Carolina School of the Arts ensemble, Reynolda House

Sunday, April 24

Salem College Fine Arts Center

- 9:30 am Business Meeting
10:30 am Papers
Frederick R. Selch, "Early American Violins: Their Makers and Suppliers."
Cecil Adkins, "Mechanical Tuning Devices on String Instruments."
Jean Hedlund, "Woodwinds of the Sardinian Coblas."
1:00 pm Lunch, Salem College Dining Room
2:00 pm Concert, Moravian Band
3:00 pm Papers: More American Topics
Jeannine S. Ingram, "Musical Instruments in the Moravian Settlement of Salem Prior to 1800."
Warren Steel, "The Hammered Dulcimer in America."