

Report on Correspondence Generated by the AMICA Web Site

The AMICA web site has generated several inquiries this year. Not all of them were recorded, but the general tenor of most of the requests remains, "I inherited this piano. What is it worth? How can I sell it?" To this, I have developed a piece of boilerplate into which I introduce suggestions when possible that may be more helpful if I know where the poster is.

Some examples of the more interesting correspondence are below.

A gentleman from New Zealand was surprised when he was trying to find the title of a particular song. He sent a midi file. Bill Chapman, Stephen Goodman, John Motto-Ros, Janet Tonneson and Mike Walter each identified the song within less than a day of receiving the file.

Terry Smythe put the Founding Chapter in touch with a special education teacher in San Francisco. The teacher uses midi files from rolls to help her with autistic students. Between Terry, who has been the most helpful, and Bob Gonzalez and Spencer Chase, this teacher has been supplied with several hundred midi files.

I had a few requests for information on music boxes. I referred these people to the MBSI. One person was very upset because MBSI would not help him unless he joined the organization.

The last two requests that generated any real interest involved a student at the University of Delaware who was looking for dated advertising materials on automatic musical instruments other than player/reproducing pianos. I suggested Q. David Bowers' book, but the advertising in the book is un-dated. I also put out the word what he needed and some AMICAns have contacted him independently. Lastly, a person wanted to know of people in his area who could work on two nickelodeons. Surprisingly, I found five people in his local area who do such work.

Inquiries from the site come in spurts. I can go a month and get nothing and then be working pretty hard for a week, and then nothing again. I try to send the inquirer a reply the same day I get it even if the answer is, "I don't know, but I'll try to find out." I have received several notes of surprise that replies have been so quick. I answered the Delaware student less than a minute after he sent his request. It was sheer luck, but he was happy.

Submitted by Jack Edwards, San Jose, CA