

Our Published Heritage

Original Literature

On our AMICA web site, we now have about 300 items, most in PDF format. About a third have emerged on loan from members, much appreciated. The task of scanning this material is unavoidably labor intensive. However, many hands make light work, so interested members are invited to join in with this initiative. Technological developments now make it possible for members to share in this rewarding endeavor.

Many members now have significant computer power in their homes, along with scanners capable of providing excellent quality images. For those inclined to participate in this initiative, I have prepared guidelines, which I will email on request.

Through gracious donations from a couple of members, AMICA is in the process of acquiring a significant collection of original literature. The initial installment is the entire 1925 run of Music Trades, a weekly newspaper competing with the Music Trades Review, both published in Chacago. Being a lesser periodical, it had a smaller distribution and is consequently harder to find. However, it is rich in research content.

While the vast majority of scanners are moderately priced, well within reach of most AMICAns, there is a scanner that is very much needed for oversized original literature. A significant array of original literature is 11" x 15" or larger, within the capability only of large format scanners.

We have a pressing need for a fast scanner capable of scanning pages 11" x 15" or larger, a size that we find all too common in the literature we seek to preserve. Currently I am using a Mustek A3 scanner. It does the job but is incredibly slow (which explains its reasonable price), taking about five minutes to scan a single 11" x 15" color page at 600dpi. That means about 4-5 hours to scan a single 52-page issue of Music Trades.

There are much better large format flat bed scanners made by Plustek, Epson, Kodak, HP, Xerox, etc. The best for our purposes is the A300 made by Plustek, the only one that is dual purpose sheet and book, very quick at about 40 seconds per single 11" x 15" color page at 600dpi. While its price has shrunk a little in recent years, it is still beyond what a retired volunteer can afford. Hopefully, we have an AMICAn whose business has one, about to be replaced but still working. As a 501(c)(3) organization, AMICA would happily provide a tax receipt for its fair market value.

AMICA Publications

We now have a sufficiently strong electronic library that AMICA can now offer an array of CD/DVD's, priced at \$25 each, containing such as:

AMICA Bulletins to date

AMICA's On-Line Library to date

Billings Rollography
AMICA Technicalities
Purple Welte book
Obenchain Ampico Catalog
John McTammany's 2 books
W. B. White's 2 books
Duo-Art 1927 Piano Roll Catalog
+ others as our library grows

All but the purple Welte book are freely available to all on our website. These discs now being offered will be more of a convenience for those not inclined to spend many hours downloading these files, and of course for those with dial-up or no internet connection at all. And even if they do not have a computer, there is always a friendly neighborhood Office Depot type service center that can print PDF files off the discs.

You should be aware that all the files in our on-line library are in optimized, compressed format. However, all the files available on these discs are in their original high resolution format.

Future Considerations

All members are encouraged to consider plans for future disposal of various items within their collections. Please do not leave this decision to your heirs. Think this through now while you are still able to do so in a rational manner. If by chance, there are items of original literature, their loan in advance of final disposal will be very much appreciated. Regrettably, there have been cases where valuable original literature was disposed of into BlueBox recycling because heirs, in the absence of specific written instructions, simply did not appreciate that this material has important research value.

Respectfully Submitted
Terry Smythe