

## The 2008 Bumbling Bruder Tour

Ron Bopp

June 2nd to June 17th, 2008, found 47 COAA members touring England and Europe in search of fair-ground and Dutch street organs. As in the past, the tour was quite successful. We toured England, Belgium, and Holland, Germany and even spent a short time in Switzerland (Figure 1). The group enjoyed over 95 large organs and as many, or more, hand-cranked organs. Reports of previous tours have been covered in issues #13 and #25 of the *Carousel Organ*. Many of the hosts and their organs seen on this tour were covered in these prior reports so duplication will be kept to a minimum in this article.

Organ Museum (formerly the 50-year collection of Teddy Reed). **Figure 2** This wonderful collection became an English registered charity in 2004 with the official aim of “Preservation of a representative collection of British fairground organs and associated artifacts.” Our docent and representative of the collection was Kevin Maeyer (Figure 3).

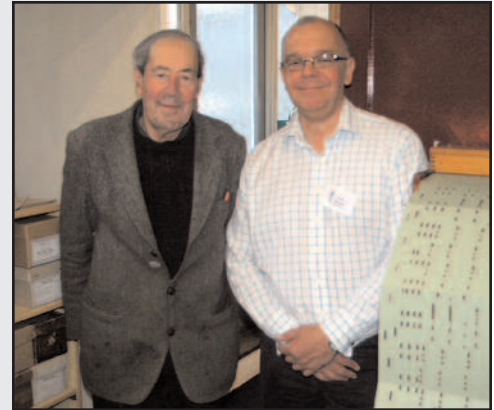


Figure 3. Teddy Reed and Kevin Maeyer pose behind the 70-key Hooghuys fair organ.

1 Leave USA	2 Arrive London Amersham Fair Organ Museum (Teddy Reed)	3 Leave London & go to Thurford	4 Leave Norfolk and travel to York Pilmer Workshop & Organs York	5 Go North and Tour 2 Collections: 1. Richard Preston's 2. Graham Atkinson	6 Arrive Belgium Tour 3 Collections: 1. Tony Decep 2. Johnny Verbeek 3. Arthur Prinsen	7 Travel to Holland Tour 2 Collections: 1. Cris van Laarhoven 2. Haerlem
8 SDB Rally Open Air Museum (in Arnhem)	9 Leave Holland Bus Dreehoornmuseum Dorp Hotel (Munich)	10 Munich 1. Deutsches Museum 2. Stadt Museum Dinner: Gasthaus zur Hand in Wieding Dorp Hotel	11 Leave Munich 1. Raffin Organ Factory 2. Elna Museum Felsenkeller (Waldfrieden)	12 Reception at Jaeger & Bommier Organ Werkstatt 2. Degersheim: Kerom Breitenmuser Felsenkeller	13 Hotel Dornstaub (Brasschaat, Belgium) Felsenkeller	14 Golden Tulip (Doornspijk, Holland) Waldkirch Orgelfest
15 Waldkirch Orgelfest Felsenkeller	16 Ti Rudesheim Stargiel Wendel Mechanical Music Museum Central Hotel (Rudesheim)	17 Leave Rudesheim for stop off at airport Return USA	18	19	20	21

**Over 90 Fair, Dance and Street Organs seen.**

Figure 1. The 17-day calendar outlines the energetic schedule for 47 attendees of the 2008 Bumbling Bruder tour.

A first for the Bumbling Bruder Tour was a visit to England. Upon landing in London, and after gathering our belongings at the airport, we headed to Amersham-on-the-Hill, where we enjoyed a visit to the Amersham Fair



Figure 2. Appreciative organ enthusiasts enjoy the Teddy Reed collection at Amersham, England.

The organ collection consists of a two 89-key Gavioli's, an 89-key Marengi, a 70-key Hooghuys, a 46-keyless Wilhelm Bruder Sons and a 46-key Limonaire. In addition was a guest organ, a beautiful-sounding Ruth 36 fair organ. Of great interest was one of the Gavioli's, an 89-key Gavioli which played the VB scale. It featured good trombones and saxophone pipes as well as unusual tambourine-playing figurines (Figure 4). Another interesting organ for American collectors to see and hear was an 89-key Marengi (Figure 5). Not only did it capture the French organ sound but it had a set of sleigh bells at the top of the case—apparently only a few of this type of organ was made by the factory.



Figure 4. An 89-key Gavioli playing the VB scale and featuring tambourine-playing figurines.  
Photo: Bob Cantine.



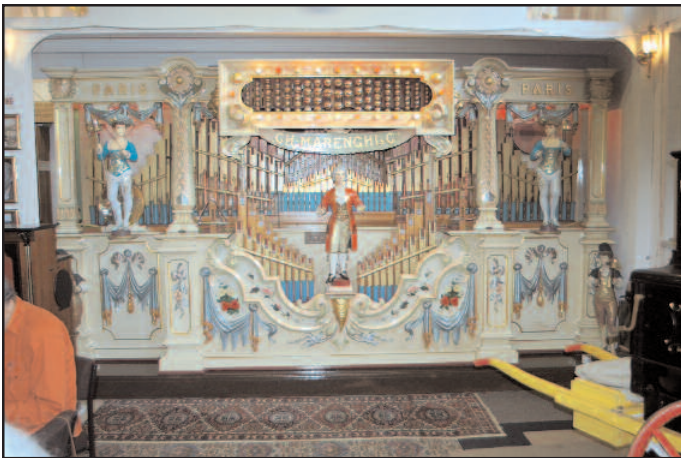


Figure 5. Somewhat unusual is this 89-key Marengi with a complete set of sleigh bells.

The following day the Bumbling Bruders left London and traveled to Norfolk for a visit to the Thursford Collection, also an English charity trust. Details of the collection may be read in Herb Brabandt's article "Memories of George Cushing and the Thursford



Figure 6. A steam-operated tractor in the Thursford Collection. Photo: Matt Jaro.

Collection" in Issue #18 of the *Carousel Organ*. Seeing the collection, first hand, however was a thrill for the members of the tour. Steam engines (Figure 6), carousels and band organs prevailed everywhere one turned. Highlights of the collection are too numerous to mention but standouts include a 98-key Marengi organ (Figure 7). Magnificent to hear this huge organ is



Figure 7. The prize of the Thursford collection is this 98-key Marengi dance organ. See Figure 8 for details of the chariot and horses.



Figure 8. Adorning the top of the façade is a chariot with two large horses protruding. This is another highlight of the crown jewel of the Thursford collection. Photo: Dick Hack.

beautiful to the eyes as well. At the top of the façade is a semi-clad, goddess-like figure in a chariot with two stallions (as described in the Thursford booklet) protruding (Figure 8). Brought into the collection in 1959 the organ is the cream of the crop of this collection.



Figure 9. An 84-keyless Wellershaus fair organ in the Thursford Collection.

A second organ which was outstanding musically was the 84-keyless Wellershaus fair organ. Housed in its original trailer this compact organ had a beautiful sound and, obviously, was very pleasing to see. (Figure 9)





Top, left: a 46-key Alfred Bruder fair organ (Pilmer's customer, Colin Bullock); top, right: The Style 38 Ruth owned by Bram Vader.

Center left: a 92-key Decap dance organ, (Pilmer display); center, right: A 66-key Ruth barrel organ owned by the Waldkirch Organ Foundation (Orgelfest).

Bottom, left: *De Domino*, a 56-key street organ (KDV Rally at Arnhem).





Top, left: An 89-key Marengi (Atkinson Collection); top right: a 72-key Verbeeck fair organ (Atkinson collection).

Center left: A 97-key Voigt concert organ (Atkinson collection).

Bottom, left: A 52-key street organ, formally a Limonaire (Pilmer's customer); bottom right: a 46-key Wilhelm Bruder Sons fair organ (Reed Collection).





Figure 10. Andrew Pilmer addressing the tour group before playing one of two 89-Gavioli fair organs. Photo: Matt Jaro.

June 4th found the group headed for York, England. After a pleasant lunch at a local pub we toured Andrew Pilmer's workshop and collection (Figure 10). Andrew Pilmer and Russell Wattam were the ultimate hosts, providing information and music throughout the afternoon. We were treated to four well-restored organs in a courtyard setting (Figure 11) which included two 89-key Gavioli fair

organs (one, the *Grote Gavioli*, a Waldkirch-built organ); a 46-key Alfred Bruder fair organ housed in its own truck; and a once Limonaire, now converted, Dutch street organ. In addition a restored showman's steam traction engine ran the entire day providing electricity for the organs; steam and smoke for the ambience and occasionally a whistle blow (Figure 12). In the main workshop we were able to view a beautiful unrestored 84-key Gavioli and a fresh restoration of a 92-key Decap Dance organ which is going to an American collection (see centerfold, page 20).



Figure 11. The Pilmer courtyard revealing not one but two 89-key Gavioli organs.

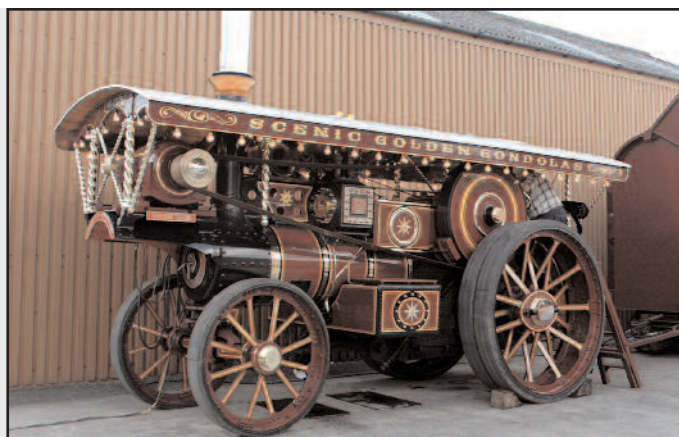


Figure 12. A 100-point restored steam traction engine provided electricity for all four organs in the courtyard.

We left York on June 5th and traveled a short time to the Richard and Anne Preston Collection. Greeted by Richard (Figure 13) we were led from an outdoor collection of steam engines and tractors to a music hall full of mechanical musical organs. Lots of circus memorabilia was present for ambience.



Figure 13. Richard Preston greets the members of the tour before entering the music building. Photo: Dick Hack.

The organs included a 62-key barrel-operated Gavioli (Figure 14), a small Decap dance organ, a 68-key Limonaire fair organ, a Ruth 36B fair organ, the "White" 98-key Gavioli (previously 112-key) and a magnificent 112-key Gavioli. The last two organs are pictured on the cover with their owners. Additional information provided by Fred Dahlinger and Andrew Pilmer may be found on page three as well.

The White Gavioli (Figure 15) is noted throughout England for its large number of violin ranks within the organ. Highlighted by hundreds of lights this organ, on its



trailer, was a spectacular item to see and hear. Not to be out-shadowed, the 112-key Gavioli had a very wide range and volume to play any type of music (**Figure 16**).

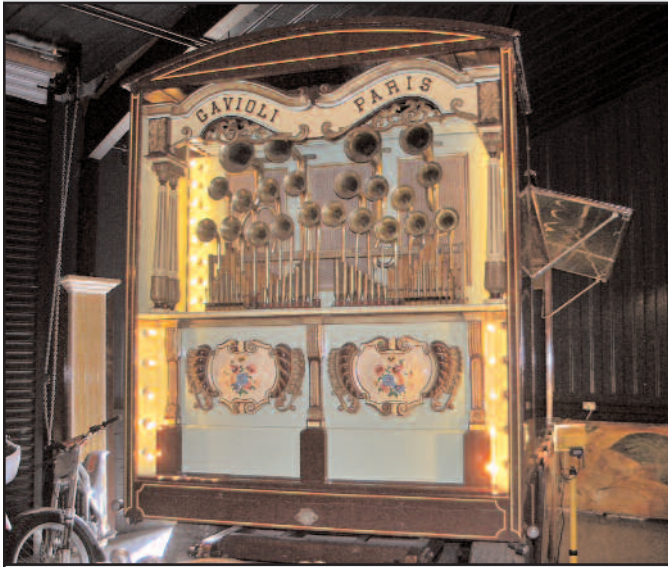


Figure 14. A 62-key barrel-operated Gavioli was permanently mounted on an electric light plant.



Figure 15. The “White” Gavioli, a 98-key organ with hundreds of pipes. It had been cut down from 112 keys in the past.



Figure 16. The 110/112-key Gavioli in the Preston collection.



Figure 17. Part of the organ display at the Atkinson collection. The 72-key Verbeeck and 89-key Marengi are seen in this photo.

We had lunch here (the American flags on the tables was a nice touch) and then traveled to Scarborough for a short but quite enjoyable visit at the Graham Atkinson Collection (**Figure 17**). This collection is very new but has an extensive array of organs including an 89-key Marengi, 72-key Verbeeck, 97-key Voigt, 89-key Limonaire, 62-key Wilhelm Bruder, 54-key Wellershaus, 100-key Hooghuys (*Condor*), a 72-key Gavioli-converted street organ and *Rosita*, a Dutch street organ formerly seen in the K u n k e l s Collection in H a a r l e m (Holland). G r a h a m Atkinson was present and was a most gracious host (**Figure 18**).



Figure 18. Graham Atkinson, a new collector but with an extensive organ collection. .

The Atkinson collection was hard to leave after such a short visit but the group had to move on to Hull, England where we caught an overnight ferry which ended up a Zeebrugge, Belgium at 8:00 the following morning. Only one member suffered motion sickness—the rest of us enjoyed the ferry’s evening and morning buffets. Our bus traveled with us and after loading, took us to the Decap workshop in Herentals where we were educated to the world of mechanical music operated by the MIDI sys-





Figure 19. A contemporary Decap dance organ in progress, operated by a Palm Pilot and MIDI.

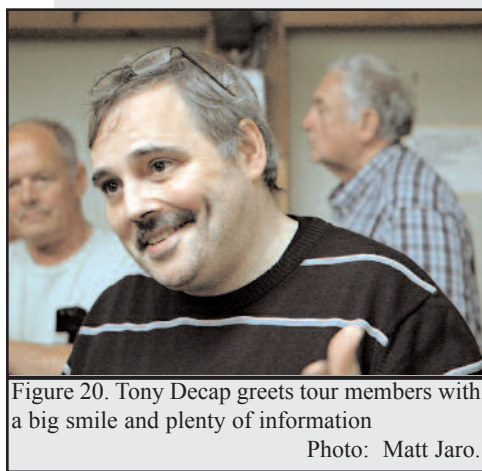


Figure 20. Tony Decap greets tour members with a big smile and plenty of information

Photo: Matt Jaro.

Figure 21. A small Palm Pilot is used to pass music information onto the MIDI for the organ in Figure 19.

Photo: Matt Jaro.

Figure 22 (below). Tour members inspect an organ at the Verbeeck shop.



tem (Figure 19). Again, our gracious host, Tony Decap (Figure 20), took the time to explain how large organs could be controlled by such a small device as a Palm Pilot (Figure 21).

After a great Belgium lunch we traveled to St. Job in 't Goor where we viewed the Johnny Verbeeck workshop (Figure 22). The Verbeecks were held back in England due to traffic but son, Jeffery, took over and gave us a great tour of the facility and the working instruments (Figure 23).



Figure 23. Jeffery Verbeeck ran the workshop while his parents were in England.



Figure 24. Paul and Arthur Prinsen, gleaming with anticipation of retirement.

Our third visit was to the Prinsen workshop in Schoten where Arthur and Paula hosted our group in their small workshop (Figure 24). Arthur had just completed two street organs,



Figure 25. Two street organs recently completed by Arthur Prinsen.

Photo: Bob Cantine.



one for a customer and one for Paula and himself (Figure 25). His complete business has now sold and Arthur has joined the ranks of “retired.” His arranging and book-making equipment had not been picked up yet and the Prinsens gave (perhaps the last) a demonstration of making book music (Figure 26).



Figure 26. Paula Prinsen demonstrating the punching of keyed organ books. Photo: Bob Cantine.

Saturday, June 7th found us touring both the Cris van Laarhoven Museum or Museum Dansant [“Nederlands Boekorgel Centrum” by Ron Schmuck, issue #31 of the *Carousel Organ*] and the Het Kunkelsorgel museum in Haarlem. Both collections have been noted in previous reports (mentioned at the beginning of this article)—see centerfold for some organ photographs from these important collections.



Figure 27. *De Rosalinda*, a 90-key street organ featured at the Openluchtmuseum’s “Nationale Draaiorgeldag.”

After a short travel to Arnhem, Sunday, June 8th, the group enjoyed an all day rally at the Nederlands Openluchtmuseum, an outdoor Holland museum showing all kinds of Dutch life. This day, however, was the

“Nationale Draaiorgeldag,” which featured 18 large and small street and fair organs (Figure 27). The park was alive with music, coming from Dutch street organs and five German organs. Street organs with the names of *De Domino*, *De Rosalinda*, *De Brandweer*, *De Pansfluter*, *De Korsikaan*, *De Turk*, *De Rhijnouwe* and *De Bloemenmeid* provided the mellow tones of the typical Dutch street organ.



Figure 28. A Ruth Style 38 fair organ, brought to the National Organ Days celebration by the Hinzen family of Holland.

The German organs were spearheaded by the largest production Ruth & Son model, the Style 38 (Figure 28). One of just a few left in existence, this large German fair organ was brought by the Hinzen family, who are prominent Dutch showmen. The organ drew large crowds and many Bumbling Bruder tour members spent many minutes if not hours listening to this organ.



Figure 29. *De Bloemenmeid*, a 72-key Carl Frei street organ, played throughout the day providing entertainment for the public.



Of the street organs, De Rosalinda, De Pansfluter and De Bloemenmeid (**Figure 29**) were among my favorites. De Korsikaan, playing the Carl Frei system, is perhaps the more recognizable of the street organs present, and it played remarkably as well as did the others.



Figure 30. Dr. Ullrich Wimmer provided an excellent tour of his “Drehorgel Museum.”  
Photo: Matt Jaro.

The following day found the group on a long journey to Munich. We had a short stop at the collection of Dr. Ullrich Wimmer in Marienheide, Germany (**Figure 30**). A very nice tour of “Ulli’s” hand-organ collection

(and a roll-playing 52-key Gebr. Bruder) was presented along with some light snacks. As we were ready to board the bus we found it was leaking fuel and our short visit turned into a longer one as we waited for the diesel mechanics to make their repair (**Figure 31**).



Figure 31. Part of the hand organ showroom at the Drehorgel Museum. In the background is a roll-operated (late) 52-key Gebr. Bruder organ.

Our stay in Munich was highlighted by dinner at the Gashaus zur Linde, a rural hotel with fantastic food. Fredy Gerer brought several small instruments and we played the hand organ, tuba and accordion into the evening (**Figure 32**). Many members thought the author of this article had fantastic tuba-playing abilities until they

learned of the remote controlled mouthpiece that was controlled by the Hofbauer crank organ.



Figure 32. Fredy Gerer playing the Hofbauer while the author is “playing” the tuba.  
Photo: Bob Cantine.

Wednesday June 11th found us visiting the small town (in southern Germany) of Lindau and then on our way to the Joseph Raffin Workshop where we were entertained by Mr. Raffin himself (**Figure 33**) and his son-in-law, Rafael. He has several new advances in the Raffin organ line and demonstrated many of these.



Figure 33. Josef Raffin welcomed his American friends, many of whom are Raffin owners.  
Photo: Matt Jaro.

Later that evening, after arriving at the Felsenkeller Hotel and unpacking, we enjoyed a “Welcoming Program” at the Elztalmuseum in Waldkirch. Dr. Evelyn



Figure 34. Just some of the fair organs in the Elztalmuseum basement: a 50-key Limonaire, a Style 35 Ruth and a 52-key Gebr. Bruder.



Flögel, Director, spoke to us and along with Michael Hess, demonstrated the museum's main organ collection in the basement of the museum. Included were three 52-key Gebr. Bruders, a 50-key Limonaire, a 76-key Richter and an 48-key Wilhelm Bruder (**Figure 34**).



Figure 35. This double image reveals the high-tech method of presentations given at the Jäger & Brommer shop. Multiple presentations were given and easily seen on the background screen. Photo: Dick Hack.

Thursday, June 11 the Bumbling Bruder Tour group was treated to a reception at the Jäger & Brommer Workshop. Wolfgang Brommer (**Figure 35**) welcomed the group and several organs as well as organ/small

ensemble combinations were demonstrated. The second floor of the organ foundation had been completed and was full of historic organ memorabilia and organs themselves (**Figure 36**). Of course I wouldn't be complete in the describing the visit if I didn't mention the side room with the Bruder (Ignaz Bruder, Gebr. Bruder and Wilhelm Bruder) figure organs. These were discussed thoroughly in the article "Ignaz Blasius Bruder" (1806 - 2006) by Wolfgang Brommer in issue #30 of the *Carousel Organ*.



Figure 36. One of many rooms of the organ foundation revealing gleaming displays of vintage hand-crank organs.

Later that day we were bused to Degersheim, Switzerland for an evening of dining, entertainment and

view of the Retonio Breitenmoser's "Dream Factory."

**Figure 37** We had a gourmet meal and entertainment consisting of dancing girls, Retonio's magic act and other acts which involved participation of some of our members (tour member, Angelo Rulli, unfortunately was not able to hit the target with a loaded gun—three tries and he failed each time).



Figure 37. Retonio Breitenmoser works with his dummy for our entertainment. Photo: Dick Hack.



Figure 38. An impressive array of cart and hand organs were on view at the Schwarzwald Museum in Triberg.

On Friday, June 13th (not an unlucky day for us), we visited the Schwarzwald Museum (**Figure 38**) where over 200 hand-organs are on display. The museum is located in Triberg, the heart of the Black Forest, and headquarters of the coo-coo clock industry. Black Forest cake and schnitzel were just some of the favorites enjoyed by the group while there. The tour group returned to Waldkirch for the beginnings of the 2008 Orgelfest which was enjoyed for the next two days.

Besides tasting the brats and beer, and seeing/listening to organs of the orgelfest there were some other highlights worth noting. Saturday morning tour member and COAA board member, Fred Dahlinger, gave a presentation at the Elztalmuseum, "From Paris to Waldkirch: Exporting the Revolution in Fair Organs." Well-received by attending members of the audience, this presentation



will included in a future issue of the Carousel Organ (Figure 39).



Figure 39. Dr. Evelyn Flögel awards Fred Dahlinger upon completion of his dissertation at the Orgelfest.

Sunday morning some of the group were led by one of Wolfgang Brommer's staff through two cemeteries where many members of the Waldkirch organ-building community are laid to rest. Amongst those markers identified were Andreas Ruth, many of the Bruders, Carl Frei, and other local builders of the time (Figure 40).



Figure 40. Much more colorful than America's cemeteries, this Waldkirch cemetery held many organ builder's remains. The family plot of Carl Frei is seen in the foreground. Photo: Bob Cantine.

Our trip would not be complete without a visit and tour of Siegfried Wendel's Mechanische Musikkabinett. Jens Wendel and Siegfried were again, the ultimate hosts

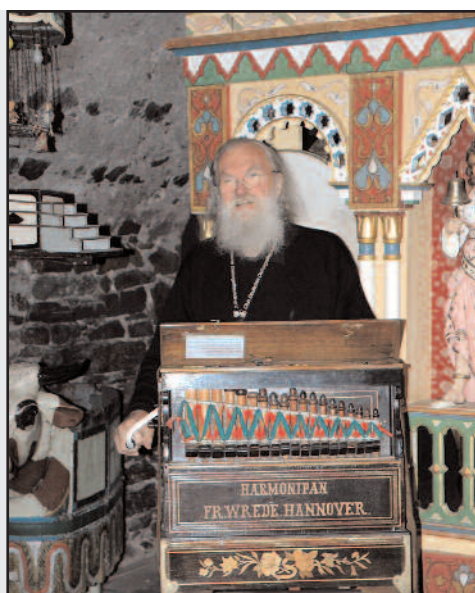


Figure 41. Siegfried Wendel demonstrates a Wrede crank organ. Behind is a 80-key Gebr. Bruder fair organ. Photo: Matt Jaro.

and we enjoyed a vineyard and wine tour plus the museum and its mechanical music artifacts (Figure 41). Our last night of the Bumbling Bruder Tour was spent on the famous Drosselgasse having dinner with Wendels and their family.

The next morning, after the final packing, the tour ended up at the Frankfurt airport. Many hours later we all were back of home, in bed and dreaming of Bruders,

Decaps, street organs, Gavioli's, Hooghuy's, Ruth, etc., etc. And yes, all members were having nightmares of that dreaded brass whistle, operated and blown by the tour director (Figure 42).



Figure 42. Tour Director, Ron Bopp, whistles to a non-compliant member to get back on the bus. Photo: Bob Cantine.

**John J. Musto . . .**

COAA member John Musto of West Pittston, PA passed away July 10, 2008 as a result of a long-standing illness. He was 73 years old.

John and his companion, Tom Evansew, attended many COAA rallies in the past years, enjoying everyone of them. John taught English in

both New Brunswick, New Jersey high school as well as Boeblingen, Germany. He wrote the English curriculum for the entire military school system in Europe. He earned a Master of Arts degree in Counseling and retired as a guidance counselor. He was fluent in German, Italian and Spanish.





Issue #37  
October, 2008

# CAROUSEL ORGAN



**The Journal of the  
Carousel Organ Association of America**



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## The Official Journal of the Carousel Organ Association of America (COAA)

*Devoted to enjoying, preserving and sharing knowledge of all outdoor mechanical musical instruments, including band, fair and street organs, calliopes, and hand-cranked organs of all sizes.*

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### President’s Message . . .

The dust is still settling from another great rally season and plans continue for future rallies. So don’t despair if you are sitting there thinking what am I going to do till next spring? You don’t have to just sit there. You have the Oktoberfest and Christmas seasons where you could make some contacts. You can get out there and spread the joy of your musical instrument and the mission of COAA. While you are showing off your mechanical instrument to the public you can also be recruiting new members and reminding old members to renew their membership. By the way, have YOU remembered to send your renewal to our Treasurer, Mike Schoeppner? Mike even takes “PayPal” now to make it easier for you.

While you have been enjoying all the benefits of membership in COAA your leadership has been very busy this year in the background making things happen. Mike Schoeppner and I, but especially Mike, have been working hard with lawyer, Ed Learner to accomplish the filing of the 501c3 document. We now wait for approval from the government. To accomplish the filing it was necessary to include official bylaws for COAA. The bylaws committee made up of Tim Wagner, chair, Mary Pollock, and Dave Mahr has been diligent in polishing up a set of bylaws that will serve the organization for future years. The 501c3 filing and bylaws have been a goal since COAA began 10 years ago. A heartfelt thanks goes to everyone involved for their hard work.

Opportunities exist in several areas where everyone can lend their talents to the organization. Contact me or any of the officers and board members if you think you would like to serve.

Ted

### From the Editor’s Loft . . .

Mary Jo and I have been quite busy this year with our move to Florida, cutting down on our rally attendance time. I have, however, had time to produce another great issue of the *Carousel Organ*. 47 COAA members recently returned from the Bumbling Bruder Tour of England and Europe with many memories, stories and photographs of some of the worlds greatest outdoor organs. You can read about this tour as well as other interesting articles in this issue.

There have been many changes and many new faces in the COAA within the last year—I have put the 2008 Organizational Chart, configured by Ron Keisler, on page 33 for your reference.

Ron

Front cover: Neil Corner, Annie Preston, Frieda Corner and Richard Preston in front of two large Gavioli organs, both viewed and heard on the 2008 Bumbling Bruder Tour. For more descriptions and photographs of this tri-yearly tour, begin with page 18. For more information regarding these two wonderful organs, see “112-key Gavioli Organs” inset on page three by historian Fred Dahlinger and preservationist, Andrew Pilmer.  
Photo: Ron Bopp.

Back cover: *Madam Laura* as she was presented at the Gay 90’s Museum in St. Louis during the early 1970s. Read more about here on page 10.  
Photo: Chris Carlisle.



## COAA Happenings

### Permanent Member Name Badge:

Permanent name badges are available from "Mr. Ken" Badges 'N Signs. Just look on page 36 for an easy-to-use order blank to obtain yours!

### Memberships & Directory:

Memberships applications can be mailed to Dan Danko or Mike Schoepner. A current membership directory list is available for \$5.00 (includes U.S. postage) from Dan at Dan Danko (add39@charter.net) or: 6815 W. 7th Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336 509-783-7113

### 2008 COAA Trifold Brochure:

Packets of 20 may be obtained from Dan Danko, Membership Chairman, at the address above.

### Items available from the Treasurer:

#### Logo Decal:

This beautiful logo is now available for use on your trailer or windshield (page 34). The large decal is 10" high x 14" wide. This decal sells for \$17.50 each or two for \$30.00. Shipping and handling is \$3.50. The small decal is 2¾" high x 4" wide and can be ordered for either inside or outside applica-

tion (please specify). These are \$6.00 each or two for \$10.00 and shipping and handling is \$1.50 for these unless combined with the large decals and then there is no extra charge.

#### COAA Pin:

This multi-colored pin is now available (page 34). The pin costs \$5.00 (at rallies) or is available directly for \$6.50 (includes postage).

#### Back Issues CD:

The "30th Anniversary CD" is now available for \$25.00 plus \$2.00 postage. See details on page 17 for a "special" now available.

#### Back Issues (hard copies):

Actual copies of back issues are available from #9 through #34. These are \$30.00 for the set (as long as available) with postage being paid. Individual issues are \$3.50

#### COAA License Plate:

Introduced in 2007 this colorful license plate displays the COAA logo on white background. Details and a photo are on page 34. The plate sells for \$12.00 or two for \$17.00 (postpaid).

All orders should be sent to:

Mike Schoepner, COAA Treasurer  
12906 Raytown Rd.  
Kansas City, MO 64149  
816-767-9766

### Development:

You can help to continue the improvements and future security of the COAA and its journal, the *Carousel Organ*, by funding one of several initiatives with your monetary gift. We have in place both the *Memorial Donation* as well as *Friend of the Carousel Organ*. The COAA is in the process of obtaining our 501(c)3 which is a non-for-profit status. Once done, these donations will be tax deductible.

### Items available from Joan's Jeweled Tee's:

#### COAA Clothing and other items:

- T-shirts (S - XL) \$15.00
- T-shirts (2X - 3X) \$17.00
- Sweatshirts (S - XL) \$25.00
- Sweatshirts (2X - 3X) \$27.00
- Tote bags \$12.00
- Ball Cap \$ 8.00

Items may be jeweled for an additional \$5.00 per item. (Note: all proceeds from these sales go directly to the COAA and not the agent listed below.)

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(... additional information for the caption box on page 2)

## 112-key Gavioli Organs

2008 celebrates the centennial anniversary of the issue of Gavioli's largest organ design, the 112-key. Two of them survive, the first, sold to Crighton's bioscope [left], and the last, acquired by White's [right]. They are now owned and generously presented, respectively, by Richard and Anne Preston and Neil and Frieda Corner. Though these two organs have been on the same rally field, never before were they ever brought together for a special event. It was truly an unequalled presentation in organ preservation history courtesy of the Corners, Prestons and their associates.

Fred Dahlinger

George Parmley, the founder of the Show Organ Society (SOS) obtained the organ on loan in 1955 from descendants of the original owners, the White Brothers of Cardiff, South Wales. Parmley took the organ north to his home town of Chester-le-Street and under difficult conditions brought the organ back to playing condition and presented it at a traction engine rally in 1956. It has been in the care of the SOS ever since. George Parmley died in the late 1980s, and when the family decided to sell the organ, it fortunately went to Neil Corner who has allowed the SOS to continue looking after it. A few years back they celebrated 50 years association with this instrument, which was built in 1909. Next year it will celebrate its centenary, of course. As always, it was presented on their behalf by members of the SOS.

Richard and Anne Preston are the owners of the 112-key Gavioli which was built for James Crighton's cinematograph show and delivered in 1908. It was restored over many years by George Flynn of Durham. He once said he had spent 60,000 hours work on it. These two instruments are the only survivors worldwide of the 112 keyless instruments built by Gavioli: the White Bros. organ was converted to 98-key operation in the 1930s, the Crighton organ to 110-key in the 1920s.

Both George Parmley and George Flynn were pioneers of organ rescue and preservation in this country—I am privileged to have known both of them.

Andrew Pilmer