

lost. There are several very good-to-excellent cartridges in the \$80 to \$100 price range, but my personal favorite is the Shure M95 IIED. Unless your budget is virtually unlimited, this particular model is hard to beat in the areas of low distortion and clean detail. It has an advertised price of \$80, but discounters generously drop the price to about \$40.

You'll find cartridges selling for \$200, \$300, even \$500 and more, but the improvements found in such devices over the best units around \$100 are often relatively small. Let your ears tell you if the extra expense is necessary to get the most out of the rest of your system (assuming you haven't bought anything yet and are comparing two cartridges through a promising turntable/amp/speakers combination). If the difference between an \$85 cartridge and one costing \$350 can't be resolved by the associated equipment, then there is nothing to be gained by spending the extra \$265.

Once all of the equipment for your system has been brought home and set up, how it all sounds together will depend to a large degree on how carefully everything was selected. It can now be clearly seen that to get reasonably life-like pipe organ sound in the home (reproduced, that is) requires an outlay of at least \$800-\$1,000, with better performance available from a \$1,500-\$2,000 system. Some people with larger budgets may put together a rig costing \$3,000 or \$4,000 . . . and with the best gear in that bracket, the difference *will be heard*, especially in larger rooms. In any case, a good stereo component system is a sizeable investment and not something to be purchased in haste after reading a few magazine ads. Talk with several different salespeople, and do a lot of listening. Examine all possibilities before you reach for the checkbook.

Note: All models, descriptions and prices are the latest available as of Spring, 1981.

Coming: A look at tape decks and a discussion of the pros and cons of the open reel and cassette formats.

Also: For enthusiasts who already own a medium-power amplifier and a pair of robust acoustic suspension speakers that "don't make it down to 16' low C": A method of bass extension that costs much less than buying new speakers. □



BOOK REVIEW

by Lloyd E. Klos

TREASURES OF MECHANICAL MUSIC by Arthur A. Reblitz and Q. David Bowers. 630 pages. Available from Vestal Press, Box 97, Vestal, N.Y. 13850. Price: \$35 plus \$1.50 shipping charge. New York State residents add 7% sales tax.

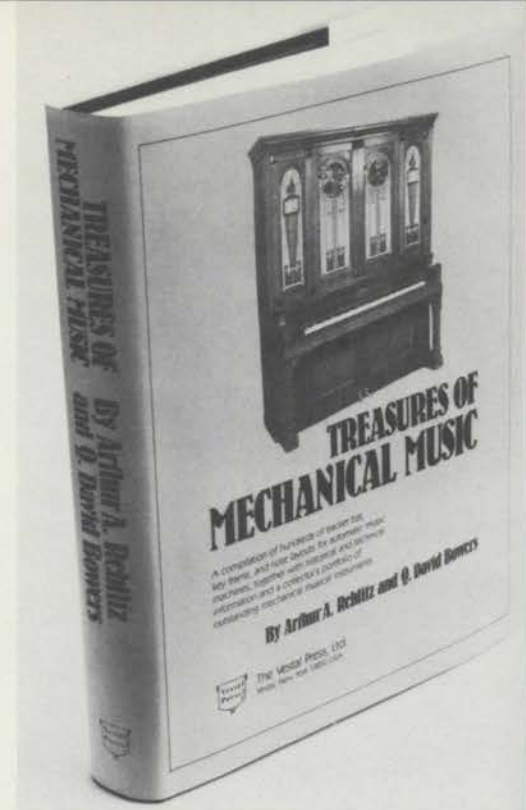
There have been innumerable texts written on the subject of mechanical musical instruments, many of which have been published by the Vestal Press. What has to be the granddaddy of all books is this extensively-researched, beautifully-illustrated volume — the definitive work, we feel.

Of 8½ x 11 size on a top-grade paper, and profusely illustrated with pictures, diagrams, scales, and advertisements, this six-pound, hard-cover reference work must have taken years to research and compile, and is a living memorial to its authors.

The spectrum covered includes disc music boxes, player pianos, expression and reproducing pianos, music roll manufacture, coin pianos and orchestrions; reed, pipe and electronic organs (those with roll players), barrel organs, band, dancehall and fairground organs. There are 450 tuning scales, tracker scales and key-frame layouts for the above varieties of instruments.

There are over 650 pictures and illustrations, most of which never have appeared in previous volumes. Capsule histories of the instruments' manufacturers, arranging for piano rolls, decoding scales, pictorial tours of Q.R.S. and Paly-rite music-roll factories, and a collection of pictures on the renowned carousel organ builder, Charles Looff, are included.

For the theatre organ buff, there is reference to his favorite instrument in the chapter on reed, pipe and electronic organs. Many of the manufacturers made instruments with roll



players: Aeolian, Austin, Estey, Kimball, Link, Moller, Robert Morton, Skinner, Welte, Wicks and Wurlitzer. There are price lists for Wurlitzer unit organs, dated 1920, 1923 and 1927. If an organ had to be divided, we learn, the cost was increased by an extra charge of \$1000 to \$1850.

Reproduced is a two-page letter from Carl M. Welte to ATOS founder, the late Richard C. Simon-ton, and contains a wealth of information on this hitherto little-known organ builder.

Decided assets of this work include a glossary of 287 terms which can be of help to the dedicated enthusiast as well as to the novice; a bibliography of 37 volumes; and an easy-finding index.

Summing up, this volume was written as any text on the subject should have been written. Kudos to Reblitz and Bowers for a magnificent piece of work! □

**See You
In Seattle!**