

## MMW Issue 37

### Contents

**Meeting at Coultershaw Heritage Site**

**La Cracovienne** by Paul Bellamy

**Development of HMV Record Players 1930 -1950** by David Evans

**Automata or Not?** By David Soulsby

**Composite Snuff boxes** by Julie Fynes

**A Toy Automata Picture** by Paul Bellamy

### Meeting at Coultershaw Heritage Site

A description and photographs of the interesting location of the venue for the next AMBC Chanctonbury Ring Meeting.

### La Cracovienne

Paul tells us that the programme of a musical box can often be overlooked or misunderstood, but sometimes there is a wealth of historical information behind an apparently innocuous piece of music. He acquired one of his earlier musical boxes for several reasons, one being an unusual tune sheet, one that had not been recorded by the late HAV Bulleid. The tune sheet was in almost perfect condition and Paul uses his detective skills to trace and tell us about its true origins.



### Development of HMV Record Players 1930 -1950



In MMW 20 David described the race to be able to play gramophone records electrically. He also covered HMV's combined gramophone and radio (issue 29). Electrical record

players after 1930 did not replace acoustic spring-driven ones immediately, but those did eventually divide themselves into two basic categories specialist types and portables. HMV issued two catalogues in 1930, the earlier one (January) listed two electrical reproducers - Model

551 for domestic environments and Model 600 "Concert" for hotels, cafés, dance etc. David's article describes these in detail, as well as three stand-out models ( the 800, 801 and 1612). Copious photographs add to this interesting article.

### Automata or Not?

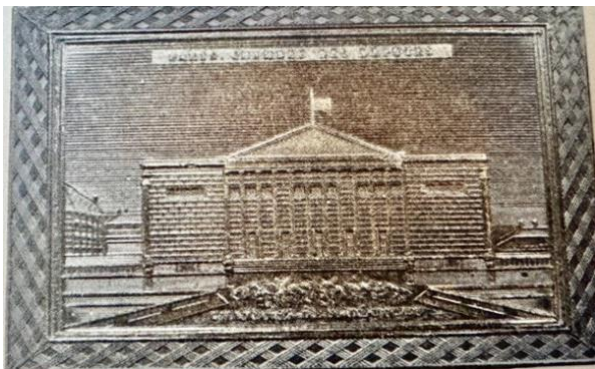


David's well illustrated but irreverent article considers a number of artworks around the UK from celebrated automaton makers such



as Paul Spooner and Rowland Emmet as well as more contentious offerings such as Ghost trains and the "Giants" of Liverpool. In all, eleven candidates are presented and arguments put forward as to whether they are to be considered as automata or what?

### Composite Snuff boxes



In this article Juliet describes a pretty little early box with segmented comb and a Laurenkirk hinge but it lacks the horn inner cover that would define it as a snuff box. She also describes a later souvenir box of London depicting the Royal Exchange and Mansion House incorporating a piano hinge. The text continues with details and photos of many more boxes including those with very intricate lids.

### **A Toy Automata Picture**

A toy automata picture of a cat playing a fiddle to three dancing kittens is described by Paul in this article. (The object is over 100 years old).

As the cat plays, its head and the violin's bow moves and the kittens perform their jolly dance. The music is produced by a small 40-note musical movement of unknown make.

A gear on the end of the cylinder shaft engages with and rotates a wooden disk. Pins on its surface actuate a lever which in turn connects with threads that actuate the cat and its kittens.

The automata was somewhat damaged when Paul acquired it. The frame was in poor shape with open joints and had been crudely repaired with nails and screws. Many of the musical movement's teeth were missing. The article describes how the piece was restored giving step by step detail and many photographs of this painstaking project.

