

Mechanical Music Registry Project

Empress Electric - Lyon and Healy Company Database Report Indexed by Serial Number

Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Originating data for this listing collected and compiled by Art Reblitz
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Total items listed in this report: 13

Style Notes: 1. A tilde (~) in a number field represents a missing or unknown number.

2. The predecessor to the Style Y Orchestrion has been arbitrary termed "Early Orchestra Piano" until Lyon Healy catalogue information is found that provides a more accurate style definition.

S/N	Brand Name	Style Description	Case finish / Veneer	Piano Type	Year Mfd.
L936	Empress Electric	Mandolin Piano	Dark Oak	Leland, made by Washburn	----
Instrumentation: Piano with mandolin attachment.					
Stack Type: Deck boards.					
Roll Mechanism: Cast iron side frames, input shaft near left end of tracker bar; Below keyboard.					
Pump Type: Cast iron framework box pump (mounted on flattened corner) with four feeder bellows; below keyboard.					
Art Glass: Single large rectangular panel in the center, glass missing.					
Comments: Plays style A roll. Sold partially disassembled on eBay 2012.					
L3202	Brand unknown	Mandolin Piano	Quartered Oak	-----	----
Instrumentation: Piano with mandolin attachment.					
Art Glass: Center panel with geometric design with star in center shield, with two side panels of same design but without decorative star.					
5823	Empress Electric	Expression Piano	Oak	Lyon & Healy	----
Instrumentation: 88-note expression piano with typical Coinola type "hidden" mandolin attachment.					
Stack No: 596 Stack Type: Unit pneumatics.					
Roll Mechanism: Installed above keyboard.					
Pump Type: Vertical, hinges up; Above keyboard.					
Art Glass: Three art glass panels, large rectangular panel in the center, with a smaller rectangle on each side.					
Comments: Plays Operators' 88-note C Reproducing music rolls. No evidence that it ever had a hammer rail (soft pedal) pneumatic, nor a split hammer rail, nor separate bass & treble hammer rail pneumatics. Center art glass panel is missing. This is an Empress Electric version of the Coinola Style C Reproducing Piano, in a different case, not a Coinola case. Found in a barber shop in Loveland, Colorado, in the early 1980s.					
Owner: Dick Kroeckel, Arvada, Colorado (reported 9/21/2013)					
11344	Empress Electric	Style Y - Colonial Design	Light Oak	Washburn upright.	----
Instrumentation: Piano with mandolin attachment, orchestra bells, bass drum, snare drum, cymbal, and wood block.					
Stack Type: Unit pneumatics.					
Roll Mechanism: Above keyboard.					
Pump Type: Vertical pump.					
Art Glass: Two art glass panels mounted in 2 separate bottom hinged doors, with 4 diamond decorative glass windows mounted above the larger panels.					

S/N	Brand Name	Style Description	Case finish / Veneer	Piano Type	Year Mfd.
11708	Empress Electric	Bell Piano	Quartered Oak	Leland, made by Washburn	----
Instrumentation: Piano with mandolin attachment, and a 24-note set of reiterating bells above keyboard.					
Stack Type: Mounted above keyboard.					
Roll Mechanism: Steel side plates, roll feeds off front of spools; Below keyboard.					
Pump Type: Cast iron framework box pump (mounted on flattened corner) with four feeder bellows; below keyboard.					
Coin Entry: Diagonal push-pull slide. Coin Switch: Coin trips long lever that releases spring-loaded ratchet wheel.					
Art Glass: Large rectangular art glass panel in the center with a smaller rectangular panel on each side.					
Comments: A rolls. Two control knobs on left side column. Cast iron coin box. Offered on eBay in 2009.					
13612	Empress Electric	Mandolin Piano	Golden Oak	Washburn upright.	----
Instrumentation: Piano only (no mandolin attachment observed; a non-original bass drum, snare drum and cymbal have been added below the keyboard).					
Roll Mechanism: Steel side plates, roll feeds off back of spools; Above keyboard.					
Pump Type: Non-original Ampico or Duo-Art reproducing piano box pump; Above keyboard.					
Coin Entry: Modern replacement.					
Art Glass: Original upper front has been partially cut out to accept a clear glass pane; art glass missing.					
Comments: Non-original motor. Has "Piano Soft on/off" control, but no mandolin on/off control. A non-original bass drum, snare drum, and cymbal added below the keyboard and are visible through a clear glass pane set into a cutout in the bottom board. Sold at Knott's Berry Farm auction on March 31, 2017, by Heritage Auctions.					
17862	Empress Electric	Style B Drum Piano	Mahogany	Washburn upright.	----
Instrumentation: Piano with mandolin attachment, bass drum, snare drum, cymbal (added triangle, wood block, tambourine, and xylophone)					
Roll Mechanism: Steel side plates, roll feeds off back of spools; Above keyboard.					
Pump Type: Vertical, hinges down; Above keyboard.					
Coin Entry: Button.					
Art Glass: 3 colorful panels with opalescent glass columns and a scenic background of green trees amid clear pressed glass.					
Comments: Original Emerson motor, No. M08725, Type 73610DH, 1/10 H.P., 950 RPM. This instrument is believed to have begun life as an Empress Electric Style B Drum Piano. Plate: Full Composite Metal Frame Improved Scale. Left cheek block #21883. Current owner bought it from Wally Yee, Honolulu, Hawaii, who advertised it in the Antique Trader. It was shipped to Ron Sanchez, Monrovia, CA for restoration. During the restoration Sanchez moved to Warren Dale's old shop in Azusa. While it was being restored, a college engineering professor had measured an original Coinola xylophone and created kits to make replicas. Ron Sanchez assembled a kit and rearranged the percussions below the keybed to make room for it in the back right corner of the piano.					
20105	Empress Electric	Style unknown	-----	-----	----
Comments: A rolls?					
20851	Empress Electric	Style unknown	Mahogany	Washburn upright.	----
Instrumentation: Piano with push button mandolin attachment, wooden flute pipes, bass drum, cymbal, and snare drum.					
Stack Type: Unit pneumatics, Bakelite top valve seats; Above keyboard.					
Roll Mechanism: Steel side plates, roll feeds off back of spools; Above keyboard.					
Pump Type: Wood frame box pump, solid connecting rods; Above keyboard.					
Coin Switch: Coin trips short lever that releases spring-loaded ratchet wheel.					
Art Glass: Single rectangular panel in the center featuring a lyre musical motif.					
Comments: Wooden flute pipes hang upside down behind drum shelf below keyboard. Plays style "O" music rolls.					

S/N	Brand Name	Style Description	Case finish / Veneer	Piano Type	Year Mfd.
29302	Empress Electric	Solo Expression Twin Tracker	Dark Mahogany	Washburn upright.	----
<p>Roll Mechanism: Twin tracker (double width tracker bar plays wide roll in both directions).</p> <p>Comments: Currently owned (as of September, 2013) by the Ghost Town Museum, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and reportedly acquired from Lilly Powers, a madam who lived in Florence, Colorado, circa 1950s. Converted to play "A" rolls in the early 1970s, because the few remaining very wide Solo Expression Twin Tracker music rolls were no longer commercially usable.</p>					
32649	Empress Electric	Late Orchestra Piano	Red Mahogany	Washburn upright.	1923
<p>Instrumentation: Piano with mandolin attachment, xylophone, bass drum, snare drum, cymbal, triangle, wood block, and added tambourine.</p> <p>Stack No: 1456 Stack Type: Unit pneumatics brass valve seats in fiber rings.</p> <p>Roll Mechanism: Steel side plates, roll feeds off back of spools; Above keyboard.</p> <p>Pump Type: Wood frame box pump; Above keyboard.</p> <p>Coin Entry: Cast faceplate and slot. Coin Switch: Coin trips short lever that releases spring-loaded ratchet wheel.</p> <p>Art Glass: Rectangular lyre themed art glass.</p> <p>Comments: #27898 die stamped on case. Found complete somewhere in Mexico by the late Jim Deroin, Castro Valley, California. Coin entry slot sized for Mexican coins. The late Bill Wherry traded Deroin work for the piano. The current owner (2013) got the piano from the Bill Wherry Estate. Same piano case and art glass as the Solo Expression Twin Tracker Empress piano introduced circa 1923.</p>					
32738	Empress Electric	Solo Expression Twin Tracker	Dark Mahogany	Washburn upright.	----
<p>Instrumentation: Piano only.</p> <p>Roll Mechanism: Twin tracker (plays roll in both directions), wooden spoolbox, roll feeds off of back of spools.</p> <p>Pump Type: Vertical, hinges down.</p> <p>Coin Switch: Ratchet accumulator similar to ones used in Nelson-Wiggen pianos.</p> <p>Comments: Overall this looks to be an oddly put together machine. Some of the roll drive hardware is composed of what resemble Wurlitzer parts, and the roll drive bevel gear assembly mounted on the right hand side of the case definitely looks to be a Wurlitzer design. The roll chucks are similar to Coinola, and the wooden coin box resembles Coinola. The belt drive system is reminiscent of something designed circa 1905-1910, not introduced circa the 1920s.</p>					
33779	Empress Electric	Style unknown	-----	Washburn upright.	----

End of Report - Total items listed in this report: 13