

# The Billings Rollography

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brian dolan s social and cultural history of the music business in relation to the history of the player piano is a critical chapter in the story of contemporary life the player piano made the american music industry and american music itself modern for years

tin pan alley composers and performers labored over scores for quick ditties destined for the vaudeville circuit or librettos destined for the broadway stage but the introduction of the player piano in the early 1900s transformed tin pan alley's guild of composers performers and theater owners into a music industry the player piano with its perforated music rolls that told the pianos what key to strike changed musical performance because it made a musical piece standard repeatable and easy rather than something laboriously learned it also created a national audience because the music that was played in new orleans or kansas city could also be played in new york or missoula as new music ragtime and dance fox trot styles crisscrossed the continent along with the player piano's music rolls by the 1920s only automobile sales exceeded the amount generated by player pianos and their music rolls consigned today to the realm of collectors and technological arcane the player piano was a moving force in american music and american life

first published in 1998 this book is the first resource guide to published materials on scott joplin and encompasses a wide variety of items having to do with the man his life his music and his influence on ragtime throughout the twentieth century this guide includes articles and listings on festivals concerts clubs or societies individual performers performing groups radio television and film as well as bibliography on joplin and ragtime in general

image from the collections of henry ford museum greenfield village used on p 14 neg no p 833 95043 2 acc 1660

all you need to know about pianos that play automatically player pianos barrel pianos mechanical pianos and reproducing pianos their invention and development plus how they work as well as the right way to look after one and play it well includes lists of makers brand names music roll and a guide to prices additional chapters devoted to the maintenance and operation of the roll playing aeolian orchestrelle reed organ

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