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The logos on the centre left reveal this piano was made by Heintzman in Toronto for Canada Piano. This piano has a 1920s or earlier look. When the serial number of 46982 is checked in the Heintzman listings it shows this piano was made in 1914.



The piano below left has a 1960s look and feel about it yet does not match a Heintzman number for that time period. Lesage also of Montreal purchased Canada Piano and kept it as brand name. When this serial number of 41370 is compared to Lesage numbers it matches up with the year 1963.

This shows that Canadian piano makers had contractual agreements to supply another with pianos but made little distinction between a serial number for themselves or someone else. Heintzman also worked with Nordheimer in the early 1900s. Those pianos displayed the Nordheimer-Heintzman name and the serial numbers match Nordheimers. Later when Heintzman bought Nordheimer the names were reversed but were still listed as Nordheimer.

A Helping Hand

Both the piano on the top left and below left are from the same Canada Piano Co. Limited of Montreal as identified by their name plates. There are no serial numbers listed for this company yet the numbers can still be found.



Other MBI Communications Ltd. Publications

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The Bell Piano News is quarterly publication and has been produced since June 2005. It is currently being read in Canada, United States, England, Australia and Italy.

The Canadian Organ News is a new publication and its first issue will be coming out shortly. This publication has been developed because many email have requested information about organs.

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Heintzman and Company

Theodor Heintzmann learned his trade by working in the piano industry in Germany. During the early 1850s he immigrated to America. Later he arrived in Hamilton by way of New York City.

Having shortened his name to Heintzman he worked for the Western Piano Company until he had earned enough money to start his own piano business and opened a Toronto factory in 1866.

Within two years and twelve employees Heintzman was producing 60 pianos a year. The new factory opening in 1888 allowed production to climb to 1,000 per year. Production peak was reached in 1922 with 3,000 units and 400 employees.

After Theodor died in 1889 his youngest son George became the president. He was a talented piano craftsman, inventor and salesman. Pianos by Gerhardt Heintzman (Theodor's nephew) and Nordheimer became part of Heintzman family in the mid 1920s after the owners died.

Heintzman had music stores across Canada. Pianos were sold with other musical instruments and sheet music. During the 1930s piano sales were done in trade rather than on payment terms.

While other piano companies had difficulties during the 50s and 60s Heintzman was the brand of choice. A pending lawsuit on patent infringement forced their closure in 1980.

(Heintzman piano company information is compiled from Wayne Kelly's book Downright Upright published in 1991 by Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc. in Toronto. Unfortunately this book is no longer in print yet copies are available in most Canadian libraries.)

More detailed serial numbers may be found through this web link www.mbi-communications.com/html/piano_information.html. The most popular Canadian and American numbers are listed.

In 1866 12 workers made one piano by hand per week. Modernization allowed 8 workers to make 58 pianos per week by 1822. Based upon the serial numbers of Heintzman and their brand names

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