

HISTORIC BRASS SOCIETY JOURNAL

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Once again, 19th-century topics are prominent in the pages of this Journal. Obviously this is a fertile area for research, and we encourage scholars laboring in this area to keep up the good work. Howard Weiner's article sits astride the break between the 18th and 19th centuries, and brings to light an important new discovery. Cryptic allusions to Andre Braun's trombone method book appear in a few early 19th-century treatises, but the source proved elusive, despite the determined efforts of scholars to locate it. We congratulate Weiner on this exciting discovery, and we are proud to break the news in these pages.

For readers interested in earlier material—I mean, *really* early—we offer Peter Downey's fine article on ancient lip-blown instruments in Ireland. But were it not for Trevor Herbert's perceptive piece on the sackbut in early England, the Renaissance would not be represented at all. Surely there are other scholars out there, hard at work, burning the midnight oil over some juicy new discovery regarding brass instruments of the Renaissance. Send it in. We'll even pay for the stamp. But you don't have to wait until you have a full-blown article to send us something.

With Benny Sluchin's query about the Cherubini Requiem, we inaugurate a new department for *HBSJ*, called "Brief Studies and Reports." (Our marketing department came up with the catchy title.) Here we can print shorter pieces that otherwise might have been passed over. Furthermore, we encourage your letters. We believe *HBSJ* provides an important means of communication for everyone interested in early brasses. But communication should not be a one-sided affair. If you want to challenge one of our authors, or provide additional information, commit it to paper and put it in the mail. Lively debate will help to keep this field—and our Journal—exciting. Finally, a special thanks to those special people who have assisted with editing chores for this issue of *HBSJ*, particularly Martha Bider, Richard Sacksteder, Anne Bonn, Christ Whitehead—and of course, Managing Editor Jeffrey Nussbaum and Design Editor Barry Bauguess.

Stewart Carter