

Appendix E

Automata Resources

Contemporary automata were an almost perfect domain choice for the research described in these pages for a variety of reasons already enumerated. But in addition, there exists an abundant variety of resources to assist and inspire automata builders of all skill levels and artistic sensibilities. Collecting these resources into a single location is an impossible task that would be obsolete and incomplete almost before it was started. But as an aid to the reader, this appendix presents a “short list” of resources that every automatist should know about.

E.1 Contemporary Automata

Web resources that focus on contemporary automata. Many of these offer support to teachers using automata in the classroom:

- **Automata and Mechanical Toys**

(<http://automata.co.uk/>)

A source for information on constructing automata with a focus on their use in education in the United Kingdom. Interactive CDs and some excellent books are offered for sale.

- **Cabaret Mechanical Theatre**

(<http://www.cabaret.co.uk/>)

CMT is an excellent jumping off point for the budding automatist, from short biographies of some of the Cabaret artists to support for automata in education to virtual

gallery exhibits. The online shop sells a variety of kits, books, videos, and professionally constructed automata.

- **Chomick and Meder - Figurative Art and Automata**

(<http://www.chomickmeder.com/>)

A blending of contemporary automata sensibilities with golden age appearance.

- **Flying Pig**

(<http://www.flying-pig.co.uk/>)

Similar to the Cabaret website in structure, it offers a complementary mix of educational material and automata kits.

E.2 Automata Builders

A sampling of artists whose primary medium is automata in all of its variations:

- **Dug North**

(<http://www.dugnorth.com/index.aspx>)

Handmade wooden automata.

- **Fourteen Balls Toy Company**

(<http://www.fourteenballstoy.co.uk/>)

A collaboration of Paul Spooner and Matt Smith, both CMT artists.

- **Francois Junod**

(<http://people.timezone.com/mdisher/decorte/junod/junodpart1.htm>)

Large scale automata with intricate mechanisms.

- **Keith Newstead**

(<http://www.keithnewsteadautomata.com/>)

The personal automata site of one of the CMT artists.

- **Martin Smith**

(<http://www.smithautomata.co.uk/>)

Automata and mechanical sculptures.

- **Rodney Peppé**

To call Rodney's work "moving toys" is to do him a disservice. His book *Automata and Mechanical Toys* (ISBN 1-86126-510-7) should be in the library of every automata builder.

- **Ron Fuller**

Ron is a master toy maker, CMT artist, and author of *Simple Wooden Toys* (ISBN 0-7472-1288-0) which includes instructions for making his well known automaton, *The Lion Tamer*.

- **Walter Ruffler**

(<http://www.walterruffler.de/index1.html>)

Paper and card automata and kits.