



## Reviving a Liliput A

IN THE SPRING OF 1907, THE MUNICH COMPANY Justin Wm. Bamberger & Co. surprised the office machine world by introducing a small circular index typewriter, the Liliput, in models A and B. They came on the market in the same year. The manufacturer envisioned the model A being used for “more mature pupils and minor correspondence,” whereas it presented the model B as a “child’s typewriter.” Despite several variations (Liliput Duplex and Liliput Excelsior), sales fell short of the manufacturer’s expectations, and production was halted in 1909.

Finding, preserving and maintaining historic typewriters is the purpose of a collector’s passion. In this way, we protect valuable cultural assets and preserve the technical knowledge of our ancestors for future generations. We also act as mu-

seum curators by preserving irreplaceable antiques from the pioneering age of technology, securing them for future generations and making them accessible. The condition of these antique typewriters varies greatly. Even machines with serious signs of age can be preserved for posterity with the help of expert means and methods of restoration.

The machine was completely dismantled into all its parts. The metal parts were derusted and polished. The paintwork was repaired, touched up and polished. The types were cleaned with gasoline, the felt was replaced, the stuck ink roller was freed up, and the broken bearing point was solidified. The paper transport was repaired, the large and hard rubber platen was restored, and the missing feed roller was replaced. The

broken corner of the anvil holder was repaired and the missing margin stop, postcard holder and rubber feet were replaced. The base was cleaned and treated with wood preservative, and the screws were renewed. After restoration, the machine was assembled, adjusted and checked. The time spent was about 25 hours, not counting research and documentation.

That’s how this historic Liliput model A could be preserved for posterity using professional means and methods. ■

*Translated by Richard Polt*

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Typewriter (left) and case (above) before restoration.