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Drum Appraisal Credentials, Rob Cook

- 1973:** B.A. (History), Concordia University, River Forest, Illinois
- 1973–1995:** Founded and operated Cook’s Music: 3 music stores in central Michigan (Midland, Mt Pleasant, Alma) with specialization in drums and drum equipment. Authorized dealer for Ludwig, Slingerland, Pearl, DW, Zickos, Tama, Pearl, Yamaha, Paiste, Zildjian, Sabian, and many other brands.
- 1990:** Founded Annual International Custom & Vintage Drum Show, “The Chicago Show.” 2005 will be it’s 15th year, this show is the world’s largest and longest-running of it’s type. It routinely attracts hundreds of the world’s top vintage drum experts from across the U.S., Europe, and Japan. This show has for years been the benchmark in establishing and reflecting vintage drum prices and trends. (Three similar shows were produced by Cook in Boston in the mid 1990s.) Many of the country’s top collectors of vintage drums attribute their success to contacts made, and drums purchased at, The Chicago Show. (Cook has also exhibited his materials at nearly every other Vintage & Custom Drum Show; Pennsylvania, Hollywood, Atlanta, Amsterdam, Birmingham (England), Winston-Salem, & Washington D.C..)
- 1991:** Founded Rebeats, specializing in producing and distributing items related to drum history; books, calfskin heads, vintage drums, parts, etc. www.rebeats.com

Activities during Rebeats era:

Book authorship

In the last 15 years, Cook has written and published books on virtually all of the most significant American drum companies of the 20th century. The list of Cook’s publications and products includes:

- An Introduction To Vintage Drums* a video featuring 5 of the nation’s top drum experts
Rebeats Video Drum Magazine video series (3) featuring drum, drum-history related segments
The Complete History Of The Leedy Drum Company a company history, dating guide
Leedy Drum Topics a compilation of Leedy promotional publications 1923–1941
The Slingerland Book a company history, dating guide
The Ludwig Book a company history, dating guide
The Rogers Book a company history, dating guide
Franks For The Memories history of Franks Drum Shop, bio of Maurie Lishon
Drum Colors; The Rebeats Color Swatch Book a compilation of color samples of all American drum firms, 1900–1990.
The Making of A Drum Company autobiography of Wm. F. Ludwig II

Book publication

Books by other authors, published by Cook as Rebeats Publications:

- Gene Krupa, His Life & Times* by Bruce Crowther (biography of Gene Krupa)
Traps, The Drum Wonder by Mel Torme (biography of Buddy Rich)
Hal Blaine & The Wrecking Crew by Hal Blaine with Mr. Bonzai (bio of Hal Blaine)
The Baby Dodds Story by Larry Gara (biography of Baby Dodds)



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Book consultancy

Cook is given credit for assistance to authors of most drum-history related publications of the last 15 years, including:

Guide To Vintage Drums, by John Aldridge

Gretsch Drums! The Legacy of That Great Gretsch Sound! by Chet Falzerano

Ludwig, Yesterday and Today, by Paolo Sburlati

Great American Drums And The Companies That Made Them by Harry Cangany

Beatles Gear by Andy Babiuik

Zildjian! A History of the Legendary Cymbal Makers by John Cohan

Star Sets by John Cohan

Print Articles

Cook's articles have been published in most major drum-related publications in this country, including *Modern Drummer*, *DRUM!*, *Vintage Drummer*, *NotSoModernDrummer*, and *Percussive Notes*. For the last year, Cook has written the "Classic" column for *DRUM!* magazine; all columns can be accessed at the Rebeats site and include columns on appraisal and insurance. An interview with Cook was recently published in the Dutch drummer's magazine *Slaggeverkrant*.

Web authorship

Cook authored the news and drum show sections of his Rebeats site, and recently authored a capsule history of the Leedy Company for the Gretsch Corporation, owner of Leedy.

Speeches: Cook has, by invitation, addressed the following gatherings:

Percussive Arts Society International Convention (Scholarly paper presentation on Leedy, Columbus, OH, PASIC)

Percussive Arts Society International Convention (Scholarly paper presentation on Slingerland, Nashville, TN, PASIC)

Italian Drum Schools, Turin and Milan; interpreter Paolo Sburlati (author, *Ludwig, Yesterday & Today*)

American Musical Instrument Society International Convention, Elkhart (George Way overview)

Vintage Drum Show, Weisbaden, Germany (American drum history overview)

Museum consultancy:

Cook has performed numerous services for major music museums, the most common being historical background on specific pieces. Other services have included appraisals, donation and/or loan facilitation, and information for display documentation. The museums include The Smithsonian Institute, The Percussive Arts Society Museum, The NAMM Museum of Making Music, and American's Shrine To Music Museum.

Appraisals:

Cook has completed appraisals ranging from mundane valuations for insurance or sale listing purposes to major museum donations qualifying the donor for major tax credits. (Two such major appraisals were for author/historian Harry Cangany, both of which were in the \$100,000.00 range.)

Related Professional Activities: Although Cook no longer owns or operates retail music stores, he leases commercial space to two such operations and consults with the owners regularly. He continues to subscribe to numerous industry trade magazine and attends trade shows. As video director at the Soaring Eagle Casino of Mt Pleasant, Michigan, on show days, Cook is in close contact weekly with the drummers of major touring artists.

