



M. J. INDELICATO

GUITAR MAN:
'Six Strings of Separation'

By M.J. Indelicato

Sometimes a fish story is a bit embellished to reflect in a more positive way on the fisherman, but in the case of M.J. Indelicato the fish stories are all true. Michael Indelicato has a Masters Degree in law from Cambridge University in England and had planned to practice law upon returning to the States (he was raised in Albany, California). But fate directed him another way and he chose to take off the summer and pursue vintage guitars and as they say the rest is history.

'Guitar Man' and subject of a documentary with the same title. He began collecting vintage instruments as a teenager after seeing Robin Trower in concert and finding out he preferred the older Fender Stratocasters in comparison to the new ones. It is interesting to note that M.J.'s father was a used car salesman and a vintage car collector, so Indelicato comes by the trade honestly. He sought guitars out in every crevice that they might hide, from flea markets, garbage dumps, pawnshops and music stores.

and traded thousands of guitars over the years and he has procured instruments for some of the greatest guitar stars on the earth from Eric Clapton to George Harrison, Ronnie Montrose and Johnny Winter. Throughout the chapters it is easy to see through a musician's eyes that he is not only a fan of musical instruments, but also impassioned about the musicians and bands that use the guitars as tools to create inspiring music. The images faced throughout the book are reflected upon fondly almost like lost relatives or childhood friends that Indelicato once knew.

As a fellow guitar collector, to a much lesser degree, I appreciated his honesty in his dealings with individuals and even offering to pay more when he found out an instrument was more valuable than he realised. Some of the acquisitions that M.J. has secured seem bigger than life especially when he purchased the 'Chinery Collection' of 700 vintage guitars which was the largest guitar transaction in history at that time! On a funnier note only Michael could be stopped for a traffic violation by a Sergeant Peppar as he was traveling to deliver a special guitar to Sir Paul McCartney. M.J. even purchased the mythical Plant Recording Studio in Sausalito, California in 2005.

When collecting, selling, buying or trading instruments the true glory is in the hunt more than the capture and

Indelicato reflects upon all of this in his book. Every instrument he discusses has a story or history either before he has acquired it, during the transaction or as he moves the guitar to its next curator. That is what makes music gear collecting so much fun and constantly a challenge. Plus all of the fabulous friends and musicians that Michael has met, played music with, and sold instruments to throughout the years of guitar procurement.

'Guitar Man - Six Strings of Separation' is a guitar traveler's story told by the Guitar Man himself M.J. Indelicato. Being a vintage guitar collector or a music guitar aficionado isn't a requirement to read this book. Anyone that enjoys the adventure of the hunt and the research and knowledge it takes to discover artefacts will find pleasure in this work.

Indelicato leaves the reader hoping for a few more guitar adventures as the chapters conclude even as he relives his 40 year journey. I found Guitar Man to be rewarding, so jump in the passenger seat and let's see what vintage guitars are hiding around the next corner.

Eric Dahl



Indelicato is the author of

Indelicato has bought, sold