

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cleanliness next to Godliness?

I thought readers of THE TRACKER might find this account interesting.

In early May, I was invited to play the 25th anniversary recital on an organ for which I served as consultant in 1987 (Moller IV/58) at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Bronxville, New York. A week or so before the recital, when the parish's director of music, John Peter Strybos, went to the organ loft to practice and turned the organ on, he heard a horrific noise emanating from the blower room (which is adjacent to the choir loft). On further investigation, it seems the parish sexton unwittingly stored some loose black plastic bags on the floor of the blower room near the blower intake. When it started up, it drew the

bags in, shredded them and blew scraps and plastic dust throughout the instrument, rendering the organ unplayable. What didn't get shredded melted inside the blower. Early estimates predict that perhaps \$5 of plastic bags may have caused up to \$100,000 in damage. I was heartened that Mr. Strybos seemed quite zen about this disaster and, surprisingly, the sexton still has his job. The anniversary recital has been rescheduled for November.

Over the years, I've seen countless blower rooms used as storage place for all manner of non-organ-related paraphernalia, especially when their location is convenient. I would urge readers of THE TRACKER to have a look and ensure that their blower rooms are clean and purpose-specific to avoid similar calamity.

Thomas Brown  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

To the Editor:

My article In the April Issue of THE TRACKER, "Stories from my Apprenticeship and Travels," contains a few errors and omissions. The organ shown is the one in Meiringen, and not Sant'Anna of Roveredo. Alfredo Arquint was the jobber who subcontracted the restoration work on the historic Italian organ to the several builders. For him we would have used the term *Rucksackorgelbauer*.

The picture of the painted panel of Zillis relates to Jakob Schmidt's grandfather who restored the ceiling and installed a copy in his stately home on the Zürberg. On this side of the ocean, we owe the case design of the Alice Tully organ at Lincoln Center to Jakob Schmidt.

Hellmuth Wolff

## MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 6, 2013

Special Meeting by Teleconference

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Scot Huntington called to order a special telephone meeting of the National Council of the Organ Historical Society on Monday, May 6, 2013 at 6:34pm CDT.

The secretary called the roll:  
(P-PRESENT, A-ABSENT, D-DELAYED)

Scot Huntington (President) P  
William F. Czelusniak (Vice President) P  
Allen Langord (Treasurer) P  
Jeff Weiler (Secretary) P  
James Cook (Councilor for Education) P  
Jeff Dexter (Councilor for Organizational Concerns) D  
Graham Down (Councilor for Finance and Development) A  
Christopher Marks (Councilor for Archives) P  
Daniel Schwandt (Councilor for Conventions) P  
Theresa Slowik (Councilor for Research and Publications) P  
James Weaver (Executive Director) P

A quorum of Council members was established.

## OHS NATIONAL COUNCIL

## Minutes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Moved—Chris Marks, that the minutes of the April 5, 2013 meeting be approved. Motion carried.

**OHS AUDIT:** Executive Director Weaver and Treasurer Langord provided an update on the audit. The audit is expected to be complete May 15.

**ANNUAL REPORTS:** Annual reports are to be sent to the secretary no later than June 1.

**ELECTION:** The Executive Director reported that 252 ballots have been received.

Jeff Dexter joined the meeting at 7:04pm CDT.

**CONVENTION REGISTRATION:** The number of registrations at the time of report was 266, which guarantees a profitable event.

**ARCHIVES RELOCATION:** A signed agreement may be possible by the time of the convention.

Theresa commended Len Levasseur's work on the layout of the Atlas.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:58pm CDT.

/s/ Jeff Weiler, Secretary



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