

### THE EDITOR'S CONFERENCE REPORT

The second annual meeting of the Organ Historical Society was held in the Guild Room of Trinity Church, 74 Trinity Place, New York City, on June 24, 1957. A total of twenty-four persons from eight different states attended.

Prior to the meeting everyone had an opportunity to browse through the scrap-books, old copies of "The American Organist", highly artistic and thoroughly interesting displays of photographs, nameplates, and other organ memorabilia which members had brought for examination. These were very well done and, had there been more time, the entire day might have been spent looking through and discussing the material.

The meeting was called to order by Kenneth F. Simmons. He gave a brief summary of the past year's activities and reported on the interest shown by the many members not present. It was decided unanimously to continue our activities, and become known as the Organ Historical Society.

Following this Edgar Boadway presented the report of the group which had been working on a suggested form of constitution. Other members were Homer Blanchard and Jean Pasquet. A preliminary draft was read and discussed at length. It was decided to continue work on this, keeping in mind suggestions made by the group with the hope that a constitution would be presented for adoption at our next meeting. Richard C. Simonton suggested that before compiling a constitution we consider the incorporation of the Society for reasons of liability, tax considerations, and other advantages of such a move. Barbara Owen made a motion, seconded by Albert Robinson, that we think more about incorporation or non-incorporation and discuss it more fully at our next meeting. The motion carried.

William J. Bunch moved we elect a President pro-tem with authority to appoint committees, etc. Mr. Simonton seconded and the motion carried.

Ray Berry nominated Miss Owen for the office. She was duly elected and took over the chair for the remainder of the meeting. The following committees were formed and the following persons appointed to serve on them:

Committee on Incorporation - Richard C. Simonton, North Hollywood, Calif., Wm. King Covell, Newport, Rhode Island, and L. Palmer Brown, New York, N.Y.

Committee on Constitution - Edgar Boadway, Burlington, Vt., Homer Blanchard, Oberlin, Ohio, and Jean Pasquet, Middletown, Virginia.

Committee on Specific Aims - Thomas Eader, Glen Burnie, Md., Horace L. Douglas, Rome, New York, Albert Robinson, New York, N.Y., and Frederick L. Mitchell, Hartford, Conn. (This committee is to work in conjunction with the two other committees.)

The future of "THE TRACKER" was discussed, and it was decided to proceed on the same basis with voluntary contributions: this with the hope that enough contributions will be sent to cover the cost of publishing and mailing. Mr. Simmons was asked to continue as editor and Mr. Robinson as publisher. It will continue to be published quarterly in the same format. All contributions should be sent to Mr. Simmons.

The meeting was then adjourned and a delightful lunch was served in the church cafeteria. Following lunch an organ tour arranged by Miss Owen took up the remainder of the afternoon. Details will be found elsewhere in this issue.

## CONFERENCE REPORT (Cont'd.)

Those attending the conference were: Richard C. Simonton, N. Hollywood, Calif., William J. Bunch, West Newton, Mass., Robert N. Clawson, Brooklyn, N.Y., Randall E. Wagner, Wellington, Ohio, Horace Douglas, Rome, N.Y., Ronald E. Dean, Worcester, Mass., Thomas S. Eader, Glen Burnie, Md., Edgar A. Boadway, Burlington, Vt., Robert Arnold, New York, N.Y., Barbara J. Owen, Portland, Conn., Albert F. Robinson, Governors Is., N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Berry, Staten Island, N.Y., Frederick Mitchell, West Hartford, Conn., Gene Burmaster, Buffalo, N. Y., Mr. & Mrs. Robert Colby, Buffalo, N.Y., Robert A. Lehman, New York, N.Y., L. Palmer Brown, New York, N.Y., Louis Iasillo, New York, N. Y., F. R. Webber, Mt. Vernon, N.Y., Kenneth Simmons, Wayne, Pa., and our thanks to Mrs. James Schofield of Wayne, Pa., who acted as Secretary for the meeting.

Miss Owen gave the following Progress Report:

Johnson Op. 532, 1879, Red Hook, N.Y., is retained.

Johnson Op. 361, 1872, Syracuse, N.Y., is retained.

Ryder, cl870, Potsdam, N.Y., has been moved intact (except for reed which was damaged and has been replaced) to the Methodist Church in Brushton, N.Y., by N. R. Wilson of Chateaugay, N.Y.

Hook & Hastings, cl885, Greensboro Bend, has been sold to Dr. Wm. McClure, Arlington, Va. for residence.

Jardine, cl860, Schuylerville, DESTROYED!

Hook -- Op. 596, Ellicott City, moved intact to Episcopal Church, Cumberland, Md.

Johnson Op. 432, 1874, Lime Rock, sold to Robert A. Lehman of New York for residence in Massachusetts.

Kilgen, cl885, Brooklyn, sold to a private party.

Ryder, cl875, Richmond, Vermont, moved intact to Royalton Congregational Church by Edgar Boadway of Burlington.

Miss Owen reports that all others listed in previous issues of THE TRACKER are still available as of this date. She also reports that she has given second recitals on old organs in Alexandria, Va., including the one moved last year (pre-OHS).

There is, said Miss Owen, a need to create a demand for LARGER old organs. The number of good large old organs that may soon be destroyed is far greater than the listing of smaller organs available. It is to be hoped that the recent revival of interest in tracker action may help this phase of our work.

The Treasurer's report as of June 24, 1957, stood as follows:

Total Contributions.....	\$52.00
Total expenses.....	25.00
Balance on hand.....	\$27.00

There were 16 individual contributions, ranging from \$1.00 to \$10.00, and averaging \$3.25 per contributor. The list of contributors includes: Edgar Boadway, T.W. Dean, David Ashley Cotton, Delaware Organ Co., Robert A. Lehman, Arthur D. Carkeek, Horace Douglas, Berly J. Mercer, Robert B. Whiting, John V.V. Elsworth, Barbara J. Owen, Edward O. Tweton, Robert N. Clawson, Frederick Mitchell, L. Palmer Brown, Phil Croteau.

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COMMUNICATIONS - All mail and contributions re THE TRACKER to Kenneth F. Simmons 20 Devonwood Road, Wayne, Pa. All mail re Old Organs to Barbsra J. Owen, P.O. Box 64, Portland, Conn. All changes of address to Albert F. Robinson, St. Cornelius Chapel, Governors Island, New York 4, N.Y.



## CONFERENCE ORGAN TOUR

The tour of old organs in the lower Manhattan area arranged and conducted by Miss Owen proved to be the high point of the Conference of 1957. There was considerable variety, and interest ran very high among the fans. Despite the excessive heat and high humidity most members of the touring party enjoyed the whole tour, as follows:

St. Paul's Chapel (Trinity Parish) Broadway at Fulton St. (Skinner-orig. case)

Redeemer Lutheran (Intermission Chapel) West 44th St. (Ferris ?)

St. Paul's German Lutheran - West 22nd St. (Jardine)

St. Peter's Episcopal - West 20th St. (Erben-not in use-AND Roosevelt)

Judson Memorial - Washington Square South (Roosevelt)

Old St. Patrick's Cathedral - Mott and Prince St. (Erben)

St. Augustine's Chapel (Trinity Parish) - Henry St. (Erben)

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## THE EDITOR'S REPORT ON "THE TRACKER"

The first issue of THE TRACKER in October 1956 had a mailing list of forty. The current issue is being mailed to 176 individuals, extending from the West Coast to England, and from Texas to Canada.

Whereas in the past year Mr. Simmons has served merely as a compiler of information without editing copy of the material sent in, this year he will carefully edit all contributions. THE TRACKER is dependent on all interested parties for articles and material to be printed. Information of any sort pertaining to old organs is welcomed, but a few suggestions regarding this material may help:

1. Kept articles concise and ACCURATE.
2. Do not express personal contempt for current builders or repairmen.
3. Please use typewriter or LEGIBLE script.
4. Submit articles concerning historical facts, organ data and methods of repair or restoration.
5. Give clues for identification of unknown organs.

Anything printed in THE TRACKER which is known to be in error should be corrected by our readers. Subsequent issues will carry these corrections upon due notification to the editor.

Dates of publication are:

January 15th  
April 15th  
July 15th  
October 15th

Deadline for copy is:

December 20th  
March 20th  
June 20th  
September 20th

We regret that there are no copies of the first three issues available.

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NOMENCLATURE - by F. R. Webber

(THE TRACKER is grateful for the material that has been submitted by this distinguished gentleman in the past year. The following article is from his pen, and the stop-list of St. Peter's Erben comes from his files. It is opportune that these appear in this issue as those who were on the Conference Organ Tour visited this church and learned that at the present time it is the church's plan to discard all but the organ case in the near future.)

## NOMENCLATURE - (Cont'd.)

A careful organologist will take pains to spell the names of stops just as the organ builder did. To say that an organ of the year 1840 contained a Stopped flute and a Gedeckt is an anachronism. It is like portraying the Twelve Apostles in modern clothing. It reminds me of an ancient coffin stool once in Rewe Church, Devon. It is rather handsome, with four legs turned on a lathe. A pair of such coffin stools once stood in the old parish churches. An ignorant, but well-meaning fellow got hold of the Rewe Church stool, scraped it with a steel scraper, sandpapered it to a smooth finish and then applied several coats of varnish, transforming it into something of the much later golden oak era. As an object of historic interest its value is nil, for golden oak and varnish are out of character with ancient woodwork, and so are scrapers and sandpaper.

The same principle applies to organ nomenclature. The old builders had their Stop diapasons, Stop'd diapasons and Stopped diapasons. Stopped flutes were unknown to them. They had their Clarionets, and Clarionettes, but never a Clarinet. For a time their Pedal Organ was a Pedale Organ, and the earliest pistons were called Combination knobs, not pistons and not combons. An expert can arrive at the approximate date of an old organ from such spellings, and sometimes even the builder. As recently as 1846 organ stops were often called stopps, just as wagon was once spelled waggon and barrel was barrell. In an organ of the late 19th or early 20th century it is proper to speak of a Stopped flute if one feels so inclined, but not so in the case of an older organ.

## GALLERY ORGAN IN ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NEW YORK CITY

Henry Erben, 1843

## Great Organ: 11 stops

1 Open diapason . . . . .	8'
2 Violoncello . . . . .	8'
3 Melodia . . . . .	8'
4 Stopped diapason . . . . .	8'
5 Principal . . . . .	4'
6 Night Horn . . . . .	4'
7 Twelfth . . . . .	3'
8 Fifteenth . . . . .	2'
9 Cornet, 8-12-15	
10 Sesquialtera, 19-22	
11 Trumpet	

## Pedal Organ: 3 stops

28 Double open diapason . . . . .	16'
29 Double dulciana . . . . .	16'
30 Violoncello . . . . .	8'

## Swell Organ: 9 stops

12 Bourdon . . . . .	16'
13 Open diapason . . . . .	8'
14 Stopped diapason . . . . .	8'
15 Dulciana . . . . .	8'
16 Principal . . . . .	4'
17 Flute . . . . .	4'
18	
19 Trumpet . . . . .	8'
20 Hautboy . . . . .	8'
Tremulant	

## Choir Organ: 7 stops

21 Open Diapason . . . . .	8'
22	
23	
24 Principal . . . . .	4'
25 Flute . . . . .	4'
26 Fifteenth . . . . .	2'
27 Cremona . . . . .	8'

In the west gallery, The Gothic case is unusually well designed and carved, considering the date. The organ has not been used since 1892, when the Frank Roosevelt organ was placed in the chancel. Manuals are recessed, with sliding doors which have been locked for years. Square-shanked knobs are arranged in two vertical rows. Knobs quite small with discs engraved in neat shaded script. Keys lie flat on the rails due to Crumbling of the leather buttons.

The foregoing stop-list was taken from the organ by Lynnwood Farnum c1925-28.

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## STOP-LIST and OPENING PROGRAM - by K. F. Simmons

(A number of readers have commented favorably on the specification AND opening program that appeared in the last issue of THE TRACKER. I therefore decided to enclose the following for this copy. To my knowledge this organ no longer exists. The program only recently was unearthed. -- KS)

Exhibition of the New Organ in the Park Presbyterian Church, Troy, New York  
Built by Wm. A. Johnson, Westfield, Mass.

Friday Evening, June 8, 1885 1855 To commence at 7 o'clock

1. Wm. Hopkins  
Extempore Voluntary, to exhibit the various Stops, Combinations and Effects of the Organ; ending with Weber's Overture to "Oberon"
2. Geo. H. Curtis, Organist of St. Paul's Church  
Chorus from "Die Letzen Dinge" - Spohr  
Recit. and Air, "Thus spake the Prophet" from the Cantata Eleutheria  
(sung by Mr. D. B. Bell)  
Chorus - "Thenceforth Anew" from Eleutheria
3. Geo. Wm. Warren, Organist of St. Paul's Church, Albany  
Prelude in Organ Style, concluding with an extempore Fantasie a la Orchestre
4. F. F. Finlayson, Organist of Christ Church, Troy  
Theme with Variations  
Pedal Obligato from Handel, arranged by Chipp  
Fugue by Bennett
5. Thos. J. Guy, Organist of St. Joseph's Church, Troy  
Overture by Auber  
Extempore Fantasia, introducing selections from different Authors  
Fugue in E flat - Attwood
6. Jas. W. Andrews, Organist of North Baptist Church, Troy  
Extempore Fantasia
7. Wm. Hopkins  
Flute Concerto - Rink  
Finale - Hallelujah Chorus - Handel  
Old Hundred

## Description of the Organ - Opus 40

Forty-three stops; three rows of keys, from CC to G in Alto, 56 notes; two octaves of Pedals, from CCC to C, 25 notes.

Great Organ:

Eolina to F (13) . . . . 51  
Grand Open Diapason . . . 56  
Viol D'Amour . . . . . 56  
Stop'd Diapason . . . . 56  
Clarabella . . . . . 44  
Principal . . . . . 56  
Twelfth . . . . . 56  
Fifteenth . . . . . 56  
Sesquialtera, 3 rks . 168  
Trumpet Treble )  
Trumpet Base ) . . . 56

Choir Organ:

Open Diapason . . . . . 56  
Dulciana . . . . . 56  
Melodia Treble )  
Stop'd Diapason Base ) 56  
Principal . . . . . 56  
Fifteenth . . . . . 56  
Wald Flute . . . . . 44  
Clarionet . . . . . 44

Pedal Organ: (25 notes)

Double Open Diapason . 16'  
Double Dulciana . . . 16'  
Violoncello . . . . . 8'

Swell Organ:

Bourdon to CCC . . . . . 56  
Open Diapason . . . . . 49  
Viol D'Gambe . . . . . 44  
Stop'd Diapason Treble)  
Stop'd Diapason Base ) 56  
Night Horn . . . . . 44  
Principal . . . . . 56  
Fifteenth . . . . . 56  
Dulciana Cornet . . . . 132  
Trumpet Treble )  
Trumpet Base ) . . . 56  
Hautboy . . . . . 44

Couplings &C.

Sw to Gt Super, Sw to Gt Unis., Ch to Gt Unis., Ch to Ped, Sw to Ch, Sw to Ped,  
Gt to Ped, Bellows Signal, Pedal Check



## AN EARLY ERBEN - by Edgar Boadway

St. John's Episcopal Church, Highgate Falls, Vermont  
1836 Henry Erben - original installation

Manual: G-F, no low G#, 58 notes	Pedal: G-G#, 13 notes
Stopped Diapason . . . . . 8' 58 notes	permanently coupled to the manual
Principal . . . . . 4' 58 "	
Trumpet . . . . . 8' 28 "	

This little organ is probably the smallest tracker in Vermont, if not the smallest existing Erben. It has stood in St. John's Church since 1865, but is probably older. The Church itself is a beautiful brick building erected in 1830, combining Gothic and Colonial design. The organ was perhaps in the small rear gallery originally, but now stands in the corner at the right of the chancel.

The case is of Gothic design, and has three small flats of dummy pipes of wood. It was probably designed by Bishop Hopkins, who is known to have designed a similar case of the 1833 Erben in Grace Church, Sheldon, a few miles from Highgate. At the impost (which is 8' 10 1/2" high) the case is 6' 6" wide and 3' 5 1/4" deep. The bellows handle at the rear must be used, and because of the "cuckoo feeders," it is very easy to pump the bellows full and then play the organ for a few minutes.

The keyboard slides out, and is covered by a paneled lid which folds down when the organ is in use; the four sectional music desk folds back when not needed. Behind the music desk is the inscription:

Henry Erben,  
New - York

painted in black letters on a gold background. There are two knobs on each side of the keys; having square shanks and Spencerian letters. The two on the left have labels; the upper one is nailed shut and reads "Silent," which probably means that it was a bellows signal. The lower one is the "Stop'd Diapason." The upper knob on the right controls the reed, which is probably a Trumpet; the lower one is the Principal. The Swell lever is an S-shaped pedal at the right, about 12" long and similar to the pedals used to pump small organs. At the left of the pedals is a small wooden piston which does not work.

The reeds stand immediately behind the horizontal swell shades, and appear to run from Middle D up. Perhaps this rank extended down to Middle C, but several of the larger Principal pipes have fallen over and it was difficult to count the reeds. Anyway, this rank, voiced like a small Erben Trumpet, speaks clearly from Middle D. The Stopped Diapason and Principal are delightful ranks. The mechanism is in fairly good condition, and a tuning of the reeds would restore this fine little organ to perfect order. The church is little-used, but several residents take an interest in it.

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## AIMS OF THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the recent Conference in New York the following aims and objectives were, at one time or another, voiced by members of the Society:

1. To keep tracker organs, as much as possible, in their original condition.
2. Where necessary, to electrify the parts needed.
3. When hope of retaining much is gone, to use ranks of pipes in new organ.
4. To establish standards as to what constitutes a good organ.
5. To make every effort to preserve the truly good organs.
6. To establish a means of preserving records and archives.
7. To assist one another in sharing information and supplying material.
8. To help educate committees in charge of organs, particularly old ones.



## NOTES, QUOTES AND COMMENTS

It seems we now have a President! A pro-tem president, at least, in the person of Barbara Owen. At our first conference we acquired a name; at the second a president and Acting Treasurer (Ken Simmons); who knows, if we exist long enough we may become a full-fledge corporation!

We were pleased to have Ray Berry and his charming wife with us at the New York conference. Ray is the genial editor of THE AMERICAN ORGANIST, and he made a generous offer to print any pictures of old, interesting organs in his magazine, giving full credit to the Organ Historical Society and the member concerned. Such pictures should be sent first to Ken Simmons who will forward them.

F. R. Webber was a tremendous help on the organ tour. He knows all of the organs visited like old friends, and those who stuck close to him heard some valuable bits of information from his great store of knowledge.

Thanks to the friendly lady (Mrs. James Schofield) who took shorthand notes of the entire conference proceedings we now have an accurate record of who's who and of what's to be done. Any volunteers for the job of Secretary?

Mrs. Mason, the Parish House Cafeteria manager, said she never saw a more enthusiastic group of people at lunch. Said we ate like "ravening wolves", too! The abundance of iced tea and iced coffee was worth the price of lunch, some said.

Prize for distance goes to R. C. Simonton of North Hollywood, California. He admitted that he had another purpose in coming to New York (to attend the wedding of a friend, Roberta Bailey), but that his interest in our work was just about equal to his original purpose!

We counted representatives, direct or otherwise, of five organ builders at our conference. Perhaps there were others also. Of course, it is no secret why they attended, but it seems to us that being thus recognized we have a growing responsibility to carry on our work as listed elsewhere under "Aims".

Al Robinson distributed mimeographed copies of the Organ Description Form that was designed by Jean Pasquet at the conference. Several copies are still available, and may be had free by writing your requests to him, c/o St. Cornelius Chapel, Fort Jay, Governors Island, New York 4, N.Y.

Barbara Owen's Bibliography of Organ Builders was also made available. If you'd like a copy send 25 cents to her, Box 64, Portalnd, Conn., and you'll receive it by return mail. The list is very interesting, and very well done. Your quarter, by the way, goes into the general treasury.

A word of thanks to all those who brought photos, books, magazines, mementoes and other interesting articles to the conference exhibition tables. The displays were in some cases very elaborate and showed much skill and effort in their preparation. And a final word of thanks to Bob Arnold and Trinity Parish for the excellent accommodation and arrangements for lunch.

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CODA: This is the final issue of Volume I of THE TRACKER, published free by the Organ Historical Society and distributed to all on the mailing list. Volume II begins with the October issue. This issue of THE TRACKER was mimeographed at the Chapel of St. Cornelius the Centurion (Trinity Parish), Governors Island, New York.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

(reprinted Dover, Del., April 1961)