

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was heartening to see such a large and enthusiastic group of members at the Baltimore meeting, and to make so many new friends. I, together with the other newly-elected officers, extend to you our thanks and appreciation. Our purpose is to serve you and the interests of the Society in every way we can, and we trust you will never hesitate to write us with suggestions, problems, news and thoughts.

One of our chief objectives is to foster in the laity a real appreciation of good organs, tone-wise and case-wise. This involves getting the churches which own fine old organs to appreciate and preserve them. It also involves interesting churches which have no organs in the consideration of good second-hand organs where suitable. And, as we must live in the present and future as well as the past, it further involves encouraging churches which have inadequate instruments, or none at all, to purchase good new organs whenever possible. Much can be done through local publicity and personal contact. The good effects of recitals given on fine old organs, feature articles in local newspapers, dissertations in church and historical magazines, illustrated lectures and the like, cannot be minimized. A great deal can be accomplished through our local AGO chapters, historical societies, music clubs and church groups.

The foregoing is a practical problem. In addition, much needs to be done in the line of research. Several people, such as Thomas Eader, F. R. Webber, and Joyce Ellen Mangler, have already accomplished feats along the line of local research. Many communities will be found which have interesting backgrounds of organ history, and such is not limited to large cities. Members will be doing the OHS a great service by delving into the church records and historical societies of their own town or county, and sharing with us the resulting discoveries. Along this same line is the locating and recording of existing old organs. One of our aims is to keep a complete and up-to-date list of these by state and builder. More examples of the work of the pre-1850 period need to be found. The 1820-49 period is considered by many outstanding so far as the production of organ tone is concerned, yet very few examples have been found. Eben and William Goodrich, Appleton, Alley, Pratt, Leavitt, Hook, Holbrook & Ware, Thomas Hall, James Hall, Ferris, Erben, Corrie, Nutting and Mackay are all names to be kept in mind in this regard. English organs, "barrel" organs, the almost mythical Johnson parlor organs - all of these are things on which more material is needed.

Those who have been with the Society from its inception know that our achievements since the first meeting in 1956 are not to be lightly passed by. We have, as a Society, been able to do things that could not have been accomplished by anyone individual acting independently, and as our reputation in the organ world grows, so will our influence for the good.

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THE EDITOR'S CONFERENCE REPORT

The 3rd Annual Conference of the Organ Historical Society, held 16 June 1958, in Baltimore, Maryland, was by far the most satisfying one yet, with 33 members present. The business meeting, memorabilia and photo displays, and luncheon were conducted at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Catonsville. The tour of historical organs, made so conveniently by bus, covered much of Baltimore, even to the viewing of one of the largest fires that city has had this year~ And for those who could stay over, the supplementary tour of organs in nearby Maryland and Virginia towns proved a rare treat indeed. In fact, some of our members were still hunting organs on Wednesday!

THE EDITOR'S CONFERENCE REPORT

The business meeting accomplished a great deal toward a better - consolidated organization. Mimeographed copies of the proposed Constitution were distributed to all present, stimulating much interesting discussion, and resulting in the continuance of the existing Constitution committee under the chairmanship of Edgar A. Boadway and its assignment to incorporate the proposed changes and issue a final draft which will be published in an early issue of THE TRACKER.

The Aims and Objectives committee, chaired by Thomas Eader, issued a provocative report which likewise resulted in the continuance of that group. The committee will welcome any and all additional suggestions before a final draft is drawn.

The Nominating committee, chaired by Robert J. Reich, submitted a slate of officers, as follows, all of whom were elected:

President:	Barbara J. Owen	Councilors:	William King Covell
Vice-president:	Donald R. M. Paterson		Robert Colby
Secretary:	Edgar A. Boadway		Homer D. Blanchard
Treasurer:	Thomas S. Eader		F. A. Webber
Auditors:	The Rev. L. Ellinwood,		Albert F. Robinson
	Fred Mitchell		Kenneth F. Simmons

There was lengthy discussion about finances, resulting in an announcement by the National Council that dues for all members would be \$3.00 annually, that the same rate would apply to subscribers of THE TRACKER, and that contributions in excess of this amount would be gratefully accepted.

A delicious luncheon was enjoyed by all. After a few "conference pictures" had been snapped, the group boarded a bus and visited the following organs:

1. St. Gregory's Roman Catholic Church, 2-32 Pomplitz, 1875
2. St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, 2-27 Erben, 1863
3. Old St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1859 Odell (saw case only)
4. St. Alphonses Roman Catholic Church, (?) (saw case only)
5. Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Annunciation, (1821?) (saw case only)
6. St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 2-20 Maryland Organ Co. c. 1892
7. Free-Will Baptist (formerly St. Paul's Lutheran) Church, 2-21 Roosevelt 1888
8. Old Salem Lutheran Church, 1-6 Berger ("?) c. 1850

Those who stayed over for the Tuesday, June 17, tour, visited the following.

9. 2m Hall and Labagh (reversed console) 1866, Roman Catholic Church in Frederick, Maryland.
10. 1m Wilfred Hall, 1826 and Opus 534 Roosevelt, 1892 (also 1m), both in the Protestant Episcopal Church of Frederick, Md.
11. 1m (?) Roman Catholic Church, Taneytown, Maryland.
12. 1m Tannenburg, 1800, at Madison, Virginia.
13. 1m in Episcopal Church, Remington, Virginia.
14. 1m in Cleveland Fisher's Hardware Store, Manassas, Virginia.

On Wednesday, June 18th, the following organs were visited in Baltimore:

15. 3m (?) 1859, electrified by Wm. B. D. Simmons in St. Ignatius Church
16. 1m (?) 1852, in Holy Evangelist Episcopal Church - pipework by S. Hamill

Much credit is due Thomas Eader, chairman of arrangements for this conference. He undertook a very large assignment and handled everything with great care. There were several instances where improvements could be noted over former gatherings of this kind, and there were also several instances where room for improvement still exists. All these were duly noted, and it can surely be expected that the future will afford us many more wonderful experiences.

Proper appreciation was voiced at the meeting to Mr. Eader, St. Paul's Church, and also to Miss Owen for her enthusiastic leadership which has been such a stimulant to all members of the Organ Historical Society.

Even after the Pomplitz and Rodewald factory became firmly established in the business of building chamber and church organs, other Baltimore firms were looked to when a larger instrument than those described in the last issue of THE TRACKER was desired. This happened often, but it did not take many years for our builders to catch up and even lead in some facts of the organ's design. Several of these larger organs built by others still exist in some form today. The large three-manual 1852 Henry Erben in Emmanuel Episcopal Church remains in its gallery location but has passed through several rebuilds and is now played along with the chancel organ from a chancel console. A three manual 1859 Simmons organ from Boston remains with electrified action in St. Ignatius R. C. Church. It possesses a three-sectional case with a broken pediment over the central flat, an alternate design to the frequent Gothic ones. An unusual if not especially large organ was placed in St. Alphonsus R. C. Church about 1845. This was reported to be a two-manual from Germany with the second manual a ruckpositiv, the latter part remaining until a rebuild in 1934. The case can still be seen, an imposing five sectional design with double storied flats in the main case, and a two-tower-one flat design in the positiv.

Quite a few larger organs were installed by Erben. Only one now remains, it from 1863 in St. John the Evangelist R. C. Church. The characteristic soft brilliance of Erben's work is there in a superb acoustical setting. There are several unusual features, such as its very modern-appearing draw knob console with sliding music rack, a beautiful five-part case and a fine stoplist:

		Manuals 56 notes	Pedals 25 notes		
Great:	Open Diapason	Fifteenth	Swell:	Bourdon, tc	Open Diapason, tc
	Bourdon	III Sesquialtera		Stp. Diapason, tc	Viol d'Amour, tc
	Gamba, tc	Trumpet		Principal, tc	Flute, tc
	Clarabella, tc	Clarion		Cornet, tc	Trumpet, tc
	Stp. Diap, Bass	Pedal:		Hautboy, tc	(unenclosed basses)
	Principal	Double Open (16')			Bourdon, Open Diapason
	Twelfth	Violoncello (8')			Stp. Diapason, Principal

It was about at this same time that several things happened which changed the course of Baltimore organ building. First, the Erben branch closed in 1863. Whether this was caused by the economic stress of the Civil War or by unfavorable sentiments toward a northern builder is not known. Because of this change Bernard Tully began to build organs on his own in the building formerly occupied by Erben at #7 South Eutaw. Another thing to come of this was that James Hall again set up his own shop right after the Erben branch closed.

Exact details of these changes are not easy to learn as the Baltimore directories were not published from 1861 to 1863, but during this interval Henry Rodewald left the Pomplitz and Rodewald business, never to be heard of in Baltimore again. The 1864 directory refers to the business simply as August Pomplitz's. After the war the organs of the Pomplitz factory changed considerably. No longer were any of the organs built used again, one a "classic" style which was used with either three or five sectional cases with a heavy arched pediment over the central flat. There is a distinct solidness without crudeness in the appearance of these cases, and the pediments and parts design was a variation of the "gothic" pattern, consisting of four flats of equal size each with a pointed arch design framing the pipes. The tops of these cases were finished off in various ways with more gothic ornament. By 1868 August Pomplitz had completed at least one monumental organ. It remains (now electrified) in St. James R. C. Church, Baltimore. On the Great is a IV Mixture and a IV Cornet. One of the pedal stops is a 16' reed. Another of very similar design, but of a few years later, is in St. Michael's R. C. Church, Baltimore. It, too, has been electrified. St. Gregory's R. C. Church, Baltimore, contains another of these large organs, still in its original condition, though in rather poor repair. Its stoplist follows:

THE BALTIMORE ORGANBUILDERS (Cont'd.)

Pomplitz (1875) St. Gregory's R. C. Church, Baltimore - Great & Swell 58 notes, Ped 27

<u>Great</u> : 16 Bourdon	<u>Swell</u> : 16 Bourdon	<u>Pedal</u> : 16 Double Open
8 Open Diapason	8 Open Diapason	Bourdon
Melodia	Violin	8 Violincello
Stopd. Diapason	Stopd Diapason	
Salicional	Aeoline	<u>Couplers</u> :
Dulciana	4 Principal	8 Sw to Ped
4 Principal	Flute (label missing)	8 Sw to Gt
Rohrflote	2 Waldflute	8 Gt to Ped
2 2/3 Twelfth	III Cornet	
2 Fifteenth	8 Trumpet, tc	
IV Mixture	Oboe	
8 Trumpet		
Clarionett, tc		

The full tone of either of the manuals is not a big sound but is rather brilliant and has excellent blend. Most of the stops are of the same power, making the possible number of combinations almost limitless. Each and every pipe is beautifully voiced and regulated, as in all Pomplitz organs, and the diapasons are worthy of special mention, having an exceptionally rich sound which is best described as being distinctly Pomplitz. This was one of the last to be built by August Pomplitz, the father. August had two sons, Herman and Louisa.

Herman worked for his father in the years 1868, 1869, but thereafter earned his living by other methods, among which was carpentry, storekeeping, and as a machinist. He is listed as a separate organ builder in 1882 and again in 1884. Louisa took over his father's factory before August died on Feb. 3, 1877. Thus in 1876 it was the Pomplitz Church Organ Company headed by Louisa Pomplitz and having J. W. Otto as a partner. The year 1875 seems to have been a rather inactive one, but the business started up again in the same location at Pratt and Albemarle Streets. Evidently August had been in bad health in 1875, for his wife was listed that year for the one and only time. John W. Otto remained unmarried and continued the business of building organs after 1887 under his own name, after the Pomplitz Organ Company went out of existence. For two years he was at the old location, but then moved to 756 West Pratt until 1892 when he no longer built. The later organs of the Pomplitz Church Organ Company and of Otto's lost all of the softness and brilliance of the earlier organs of August but still retained very distinctive and beautiful diapason tones. This loss of brilliance can be easily understood by the following stoplists:

Pomplitz Church Organ Company c. 1888		John W. Otto c. 1890	
<u>Great</u> : 58 notes	<u>Swell</u> :	<u>Great</u> : 58 notes	<u>Swell</u> :
8 Open Diapason	8 Stp. Diapason tc	8 Open Diapason tc	8 Open Diapason tc
Melodia tc	Viola tc	Melodia tc	Violina tc
Dulciana	Stp. Bass	Dulciana	Oboe Gamba
Stp. Bass	4 Harmonic Flute	Stp. Bass	Stp. Bass
4 Octave	<u>Pedal</u> : 27 notes	<u>Pedal</u> : 28 notes	
	16 Bourdon	16 Bourdon	
Sw to Gt 8, 4	Sw to Ped, Gt to Ped 8	Sw to Gt Sw to Ped Gt to Ped	

From 1864 to 1872 there were only three organ builders in Baltimore, namely, August Pomplitz, James Hall and Bernard Tully. Tully operated his business from 1864 to 1866 at 7 South Eutaw Street, from 1867-68 at 2822 West Pratt, in 1869 over 64 So. Sharp, and then wound up at the corner of Camden and Paca in 1872-75.

In 1875 Leon P. Beaulieu came to Baltimore and with James Burton Sr. and Jr. all lived at Miller's Hotel. Only Beaulieu stayed and became more permanently settled. In 1882 they were at 100 N. Calvert St. After 1882 they are no longer listed as a factory, but Beaulieu was listed as a tuner and it is known that he taught C. Louis Miller the art of organ building.

THE BALTIMORE ORGANBUILDERS (Concl'd.)

Miller then took over the Maryland Organ Company in 1900 which had begun in 1894 at 904 Forest Street with Charles Tillman as manager. Miller continued only two years and built only two or three organs. This information comes from his wife and 2 daughters still living in Baltimore. Number 2 organ of the Maryland Organ Co., is in St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Baltimore, and shows a definite Roosevelt influence. Miller had worked for Roosevelt and in so doing had grown to intensely dislike the foreman, Adam Stein. This information comes from an old organist friend of Miller's.

About 1873 Henry Niemann came to Baltimore. Of his highly interesting background and of the accomplishments of the Roosevelt Branch and the shop of Adam Stein, the next installment will tell.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Hanover and Hamburg Streets, Baltimore
Maryland Organ Company, c. 1892

<u>Great</u> : 8 Open Diapason	<u>Swell</u> : 16 Bourdon (split knob)	<u>Pedal</u> : 16 Bourdon
Dopplefloete	8 Violin Diapason	
Viol d 'Gamba	Stopped Diapason	<u>Couplers</u> :
Dulciana	Salicional	Sw to Gt 8
4 Octave	Dolce	Sw to Gt 4
2 2/3 Twelfth	4 Harmonic Flute	Sw to Ped 8
2 Fifteenth	III Dolce Cornet	Gt to Ped 8
8 Trumpet	8 Oboe tc	
	Bassoon (Bass to Oboe)	

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NOTES, QUOTES and COMMENTS

We noticed several cameras in evidence at the Baltimore conference, and not a few flashbulbs illuminated some of the darker corners of our proddings. We earnestly invite those who secured good black and white snapshots to submit same for possible inclusion in a future issue of THE TRACKER. Please be sure to identify your subject in detail, and send glossy prints. We cannot return pictures, so any that are submitted automatically become the property of OHS.

The tour by bus certainly was a wonderful idea. It proved inexpensive and, for the most part, kept our group pretty well together. It also saved considerable time and allowed us to cover the planned tour in the space of time available, and saved much wear and tear on limbs and feet.

Found: One volume of the works of Buxtehude following the conference. reclaim same by writing Barbara Owen, P. O. Box 64, Portland, Conn.

We're really growing up: It was duly moved to have the name and contents of THE TRACKER copyrighted. As has been announced, beginning with the next issue we expect to come out in new dress (printed, that is), but this will depend entirely on the number of persons who pay their dues by September 1st. If we don't have the money to undertake printed copy, we'll just have to continue in our present form.

One of the more personal items of the Conference was the President's recognition of three members whose deaths occurred in the past year, namely Gustav F. Dohring, S.E. Gruenstein, and Gilman Chase. A short prayer was offered by the Rev'd. Leonard Ellinwood as part of the opening ceremonies.

As someone was heard to say, you don't have to be crazy to belong to OHS, but Someone else has referred to certain members of OHS as "organ nuts". Well, from the antics of some of those present at the Baltimore conference an observer might take these appellations seriously. Let us use more decorum in the future, particularly when it comes to visiting churches.

That was a fine recital by Donald King on the 1863 Erben in the R.C. Church of St. John the Evangelist, Baltimore, on Monday evening, June 16. The acoustics added much to the already superb organ tone, providing a delight for all who attended. The pro-

NOTES, QUOTES and COMMENTS, Cont'd.

gram included the following: Henry Purcell's "Westminster Suite", Paul Hindemith's First Sonata, Walter's Partita on the Chorale "Schmuecke dich", and the Bach Prelude and Fugue in E major.

You'll notice the 2 pages of illustrations in this issue, of course, and realize that one of these is a repeat from the last TRACKER. The repeat is included since the first print was done on rough paper and not very satisfactory. We hope you like the reprints, and also the new lot of pictures.

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EDITORIAL

Our first conference met in New York in 1956 with 10 attending. The 1957 conference numbered 22 present. And this year saw the original number more than trebled, which is the finest sign of growth that I know.

I have a few suggestions for plans for the future. Tom Eader did an excellent job on arrangements, but it is too much to expect one man to do and think of everything; so I hope that next year at least two people can get together on plans for the conference. One of these would arrange the meeting place, exhibits and luncheon, and the other would plan the organ tour. I would suggest that the smooth movement of the group between churches (by bus) be copies. Then, on the tour I would suggest that each member be supplied with copies of the stoplists and other pertinent information about the organs to be visited. Also, that in advance of our arrival one person be assigned to each organ to previously examine the instrument and demonstrate that organ and its resources for approximately 10 minutes, answer our questions, etc. After that there could be an orderly examination of the console and organ by those who desire. The indiscriminate removal of panels, etc., does not improve our status as a Society.

Let us leave the churches with the feeling of accomplishment for ourselves, and at the same time let the church feel that they would like to welcome us again. Adequate preparation beforehand as suggested above, together with a few rules of behavior distributed at the beginning of the tour will aid our cause greatly.

The Organ Historical Society has a long way to go and many things to accomplish in the future. At the same time it should be well pleased with the record of things achieved to date. - - K.S.

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ORGANS FOR SALE (For full information write Barbara J. Owen, Box 64, Portland, Conn.)

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| 1. HilHook & Hastings, 1884, 2-7. | 9. Hilborne Roosevelt, 1-2. |
| 2. E. & G.G. Hook, 1871, 2-16. | 10. Simmons & McIntyre, 1849, 1-5 |
| 3. E. & G.G. Hook, 1857, 2-16. | 11. John G. Marklove, c1880, 1-6. |
| 4. William A. Johnson, 1858, 2-19. | 12. E.H. Stuart, c1855, 2-20. |
| 5. Johnson & Son, 1885, 2-22. | 13. J G Pfeffer, 1907, 1-7. |
| 6. Johnson & Son, 1891, 2-17. | 14. Hook & Hastings, 1894, 2-11. |
| 7. Frank Roosevelt-Corrie, 1886, 2-17. | 15. Thomas Dieffenbach, c1875, 1-5. |
| 8. Frank Roosevelt, 1885, 2-20 | |

CODA

This edition of THE TRACKER may well be the last to be mimeographed at the Chapel of St. Cornelius the Centurion, Governors Island, New York Harbor. Will you help make it so by sending your dues to the Treasurer, Thomas Eader, 200 A St. SW, Glen Burnie, Md. Send all material for publication to Kenneth Simmons, 20 Devonwood Rd., Wayne, Pa. Send any notice of change of address to Albert Robinson, St. Cornelius Chapel, Governors Island, New York 4, N. Y.

- SOLI DEO GLORIA -

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