

The British Institute of Organ Studies

The Aims of BIOS

To promote objective, scholarly research into the history of the organ and its music in all its aspects and, in particular, into the organ and its music in Britain.

To conserve the sources and materials for the history of the organ in Britain, and to make them accessible to scholars.

To work for the preservation, and where necessary, the faithful restoration of historic organs in Britain.

To encourage an exchange of scholarship with similar bodies and individuals abroad, and to promote, in Britain, a greater appreciation of historical overseas schools of organ-building.

Membership

Membership is open to individuals and organisations supporting the society's aims.

The current subscription is £37 per annum with a concessionary rate of £32 for those who have retired from professional work and reached the UK state retirement pension age.

The subscription for full-time students and the unwaged is £12. For those outside the UK rates are £10 higher to reflect the additional of postage for publications. Subscriptions run from January to December.

All payments must be in sterling via cheque, postal order or standing order, or through PayPal at the BIOS webstore. Members are encouraged to Gift Aid their subscriptions.

Further information can be found at www.bios.org.uk. As well as membership, all BIOS publications may be purchased through the website, which also contains details of forthcoming meetings and events with online facilities for booking, guidelines on restoration, a list of grant giving bodies, information on BIOS' governance and constitution, and many useful links.



**Christ Church Spitalfields, London
Organ by Richard Bridge 1735, reconstructed
by William Drake Ltd, completed 2015.**

BIOS Registered Charity no. 283936



BIOS exists to encourage the study of the organ, its history and design, and to increase appreciation of its music by the general public.

BIOS serves as the amenity society for the British pipe organ, working in particular for the conservation and faithful restoration of historic British organs. Many of these instruments are of great musical and visual character; they are part of the nation's heritage and they can teach us much about the work of the craftsmen who built them, of generations of musicians who played them, and of composers who wrote for them.

The Council and membership of BIOS includes advisers, archivists, authors, enthusiasts, historians, organ-builders, scholars, teachers and performers. It furthers its aims with publications, including the annual *Journal* and quarterly *BIOS Reporter*, and with regular conferences and seminars in different parts of the country.

Support has been provided by the Arts Council of England, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Pilgrim Trust and others.

Chairman

Dr Alan Thurlow

Secretary

Melvin Hughes

Membership Secretary

David Shepherd
membership@bios.org.uk

BIOS provides....

The British Organ Archive

Housed at the Cadbury Research Library in the University of Birmingham, the BOA contains original documents, organ-builders' shop-books, correspondence, accounts, technical drawings, and other papers related to those who commissioned, designed, constructed, played and listened to organs. This is complemented by the fiche and microfilm records of many British firms, the photographic collections of Andrew Freeman and Gilbert Benham and a library of books and periodicals. The archive index is a major research tool and is available on-line.

The National Pipe Organ Register

With information on 35,000 organs, including 10,000 pictures and 260 sound recordings, the NPOR aims to contain details of all British pipe organs, and is available free on-line along with the Directory of British Organ Builders.

Historic Organ Listing

BIOS is responsible for the listing of historic organs, a step towards the statutory protection of our organ heritage. The scheme identifies instruments of importance, alerts owners and guardians to the importance of a historic instrument in their care and can support an application for a grant to preserve or restore an important organ.

The Historic Organs at Risk Register

This is designed to augment Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register by drawing attention to important organs under threat in buildings at risk of closure or alteration, or where the organ itself is at risk following prolonged neglect.

Meetings and Conferences

These take place throughout the year in many parts of the country focusing on particular instruments, organ-builders and areas of research and repertoire, frequently including performances of music on appropriate instruments. The annual Bernard Edmonds Research Conference at the University of Birmingham provides an opportunity for scholars to read papers on recent research, presenting their work to an interested and informed audience.

Publications

The annual *Journal* and quarterly *Reporter* are provided free to all members. Now extending to 40 volumes, the *Journal* is a major scholarly publication to be found in libraries throughout the world, containing articles and authoritative reviews about organs and organ builders in Britain and abroad, as well as organ music and related historical, architectural and fine art topics.

The Organ of King's College, Cambridge

Photographed by Andrew Freeman in 1910.

From the British Organ Archive.

