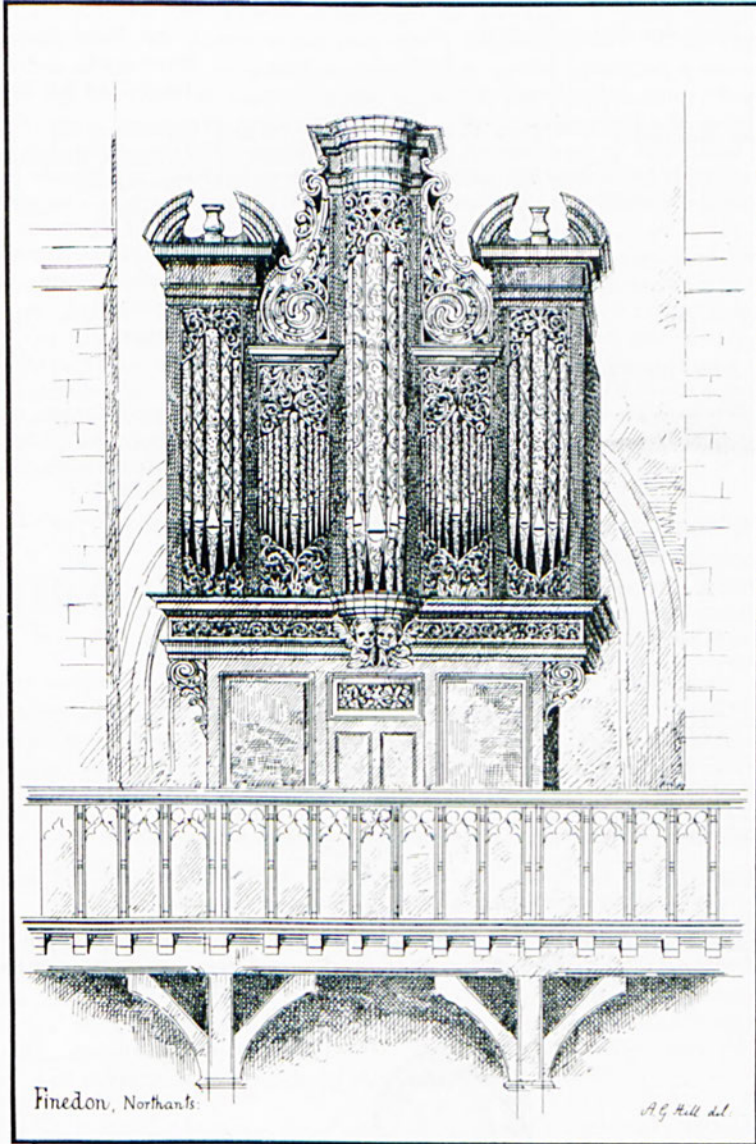


BIOS Reporter



Volume two, no. 2 (April 1978)

The British Institute of Organ Studies (BIOS)

BIOS

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The BIOS Reporter is edited by Nicholas Thistlethwaite who will be pleased to receive suitable material for inclusion and suggestions concerning the form of the publication; correspondence arising from the Notes and Queries column should be sent to the Reverend B. B. Edmonds, at:

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The BIOS Journal is under the general editorship of the Council; any enquiries or offers of material should be directed to the Secretary at the address above.

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EDITORIAL

Central to the Aims of BIOS is the need to preserve the best examples of British organ building. They are the material sources for the appreciation of the

art of the British schools of organ building; without them, we should be unable to form a complete impression of the British tradition of organ composition and performance; as works of art they are a legitimate part of the national heritage. One of the first corporate acts of BIOS was to establish a committee to look into the question of surveying the organs of the British Isles, with a view to establishing priorities for preservation. This committee has now reported, and its Report is of such central importance to the work of BIOS that we have deemed ourselves justified in devoting virtually the whole of this issue of the Reporter to a transcription. We do this in the hope that members will be inspired to offer constructive criticism of what is proposed, and to offer assistance in the areas outlined by the Report. To facilitate the former, we shall open a correspondence page in the Reporter (letters to the Secretary/Editor by June 10th, please) though this should not prevent members contacting the Chairman of the Listing Committee directly with comments and offers of help. We have always hoped that BIOS would be more than a merely sedentary organization: whatever the value of our publications we feel that field work in listing worthy instruments and working for their preservation and sympathetic restoration will be a valuable, positive contribution to the study of the British heritage. We urge all members to take up the call to action with alacrity.

LISTING REPORT

A Report on, and Suggestions for the Procedure for Listing Organs of the British Isles deemed to be of historic or artistic importance.

Scarcely anyone can deny that the need to categorise and protect the organs of these islands is a pressing one and long overdue. Indeed, it is extraordinary to those of us concerned with the musical, scholarly, and artistic appreciation of the organs in the country, that current activity in listing buildings, paintings, and archive collections should have so blatantly ignored this instrument, the most expensive and elaborate piece of church furniture, and so frequently the most substantial and eye-catching jewel in the music room or gallery of an historic mansion.

It is surely clear from even the quickest perusal of the Aims of BIOS that the protection of organs is of paramount importance to the Institute, and thus, in recent months considerable thought has been given as to how to tackle this gargantuan task. Much help has been given, and I have to thank especially my sub-committee for their considerable assistance in discussions and letters. This committee consists of John Bowles, Donald Findlay, Christopher Kent, Austin Niland, and myself, and its future role is outlined below.

The aim of this Report is to show what has already been done, what work is in progress, and to suggest the lines for the work ahead. The great hope is that the offers of help will come fast and free, and that further suggestions should be made to alter anything which seems cumbersome in the procedure outlined. If no comments are received by the end of July, I shall propose to the AGM of

BIOS that the procedure be adopted and work begin.

It seemed clear to us from the outset that the urgency of this work necessitated the 'spot-listing'¹ approach rather than any systematic and very drawn-out listing, area by area. The latter type of study is, of course, of the very greatest use, and the last part of the Report is devoted to this approach. The 'spot-listing' activity can obviously continue at the same time, and indeed must, if we are to grade and record instruments of known importance as soon as possible. This is now considered under Section I of this Report.

SECTION ONE

The Central List^{2,4}

What has been achieved so far in listing British organs? Many previous investigators have thought that diocesan boundaries serve well, though not all work progressing or promised would appear to be proceeding on that basis. The list below indicates work known to be in progress or intended; it does not take account of some large but - at least in part - random collections of specifications: these will no doubt prove of great value, but our concern at the moment is with systematic studies of particular areas.

- + Manchester area..... David Wickens has kindly offered.
- + Lancashire..... H. S. V. Shapley compiled lists.
- + Devon and Cornwall..... J. W. Southern is reported to have surveyed these counties.
- + Suffolk..... M. F. Woodward knows of work in this area and has offered help; Messrs Budgen and Mckinnon have prepared a list now in the CRO at Ipswich.
- x Norwich Diocese..... Canon Gordon Paget, & additional work by Ralph Bootman.
- + Chichester Diocese..... Nicholas Plumley
- x Edinburgh..... David Stewart & others
- Bristol & Salisbury Dioceses Christopher Kent
Stephen Taylor (Salisbury Diocese)
- Rochester Diocese..... Paul Hale
- Parts of Scotland..... Col. Burgess Winn
- Southwell Diocese..... David Butterworth, Nigel Day, Nicholas T histlethwaite
- x Peterborough Diocese..... Rev. C. Hilary Davidson
- + Leicester Diocese..... Mr. Honeywell
- x Rutland..... Rev. C. Hilary Davidson
- x Dorset..... A.. L. Flay
- x Canterbury Diocese..... Martin Renshaw
- x Worcestershire..... Charles Drane
- + Durham (County)..... Richard Hird

N. B. x denotes work noted by or in care of the Committee

+ denotes work known to be in progress or completed but not yet seen

Extensive notes are held by the OAC on organs of historic importance, and are currently in the care of Austin Niland. Further help has been received from organ builders who have sent details of organs restored by them or in their care.



Information Required

It is proposed that information gleaned will be placed on cards to join the card index of organs to be kept at Keele, along with the rest of the BIOS Archives. The proposed layout for this card is given later, and this shows the basic information we need to know about any organ

Listing Criteria

It is proposed that there should be three grades:

Grade A An unaltered and important example of the work of one builder.

Grade B An altered (though not drastically) example of the work of a particular organ builder.

Grade C An altered organ containing intact material by a particular builder.

The same grades would apply to organ cases, and assessment would be separate, e.g. S. Mary Rotherhithe (Organ B, Case A) ; Finchcocks, Goudhurst (Byfield organ) - Organ A, Case A.

A special category to be reserved, denoted by a star, for organs of 'outstanding historic merit' which would have to be preserved on all accounts because of their unique contribution to the national heritage. For instance, an organ like that at S. Mary, Rotherhithe, in spite of additions by later builders, would receive a star on account of its immense importance.

It is further proposed at this stage that any unaltered organ would be listed automatically if it pre-dates 1890. The committee would further propose that any intact work of certain specified builders between certain specified years post-dating 1890 should also be listed as a matter of course (suggestions of names for inclusion in this list would be welcome).

How to Proceed [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#)

There is a good deal of information in existence apart from the sources already mentioned. Quite clearly, it is beyond the capabilities of one person to collect together information from all the possible sources and act upon it. So we suggest that England and Wales be split up into 10 sections as follows:

1. Dioceses of Gloucester, Bristol, Salisbury, Wells, Exeter, Truro
2. Dioceses of Hereford, Worcester, Coventry, Lichfield, Birmingham
3. Dioceses of Monmouth, Llandaff, S. David's, Brecon, Bangor, S. Asaph
4. Dioceses of Chester, Liverpool, Manchester, Blackburn, Carlisle
5. Dioceses of Newcastle, Durham
6. Dioceses of York, Ripon, Bradford, Wakefield, Sheffield
7. Dioceses of Lincoln, Southwell, Derby, Leicester, Peterborough
8. Diocese of London
9. Dioceses of Oxford, S. Alban's, Ely, Norwich, S. Edmundsbury, Chelmsford
10. Dioceses of Winchester, Portsmouth, Guildford, Southwark, Rochester, Chichester and Canterbury

We remain uncertain as to how to deal with Scotland and Ireland, and will consult with members from those parts before putting forward a proposal. Representatives for those areas would join with the member co-ordinating work in each of the areas noted above and with the Chairman of the sub - committee to form a committee responsible for over-seeing BIOS' Listing activity. The

original members of the sub-committee would remain as advisers to the Chairman and meet regularly.

Tasks of the Area Supervisors

Broadly speaking there would be three main ones:

1. To be responsible for the collection of information about organs of importance in the area. The amount of time available to each will vary, but initial emphasis should be upon preparing a list of known instruments before embarking on further explorations - the task is urgent. These further explorations should take the form of work on builders' records, recording information from secondary sources. Liaison with local organists' associations and the diocesan organs adviser is also vital.
2. Ideally, the extent of knowledge on any organ ought to be as full as indicated by the proposed file card:

T own	County	Building	Denomination	
Position				
Date of Visit				
Investigator				
Builder &: Date		Maintained by		
Action	Tracker	Pneumatic	Electric	
Compasses	Manual s		Pedals	
Keyboard	Coverings		Overhang ?	
Pedals	Radiating	Straight	Concave	Flat
J amb s	Straight	Angled	Slanting	T erraced
Stop Shanks	Round	Square		
Stop Heads	C/plate	Gothic	Capitals	Other
Blowe r	Electric	Manual		
Swell Pedal	Balanced	Lever		

The reverse side of the card should contain a synopsis of the specification, a brief note of any known history, a photograph or description of the casing, and the suggested grade.

It is proposed that lists of the organs in an area and their grades should be sent to the Chairman of the sub-committee for the compilation of a central directory; the file card should be sent to the Archivist at Keele for inclusion in the collection - the area supervisor should keep a second copy of the file card for his local collection.

3. The area supervisor should send a duplicated letter, completed with appropriate details, to the authorities with custody of listed organs, simply saying that the organ is considered to be of merit, and that details have been deposited in the Institute's Archive.

Standing of Listing

There has been a good deal of legislation over the years since 1882 about the protection of buildings, including matters such as the publication of lists (1913), involvement of local authorities (1931), onus on the owner to inform relevant authorities in case of work required or intention to demolish (1944/7), ability of the Minister of State to make grants for buildings and contents (1953),

inclusion of churches (1967), penalties for offenders (1968), and above all, the giving of a consultative role to preservation groups (also 1968).

If BIOS in the future is to have any influence in preventing the loss of historic instruments through disastrous rebuilds, destructive 'restorations', or just plain neglect, it is obvious that it would help if some central body, concerned with the protection of works of art could 'adopt' or recognise our grading of the nation's organs. It seems that the state system cannot afford protection as organs are not 'fixtures' in the usual sense, and thus one might suggest the further possibility that perhaps a national museum like the Victoria and Albert Museum might be interested in our work. In Denmark it is the national museum which holds lists of historic instruments, protects them, and gives grants where necessary. However, it is clear from the above that at the moment our work will be our own affair, and perhaps this is best. There are advantages in independence, and it is to be hoped that, as the years go by, BIOS will achieve a standing and credibility strong enough to be recognised as authoritative in these matters.

That we have considered the problem in 'Anglican' terms must be plain enough. We have only done this because it seemed to us that diocesan organization is simpler to adopt in that there is already some advisory machinery in operation. We would not wish, however, the area supervisors to neglect the considerable need to list and grade organs in Roman Catholic and Free Church buildings, nor yet the organs in private houses. Perhaps there is some listing activity among our Roman Catholic and Free Church brethren? We would greatly welcome information here.

SECTION TWO

Diocesan or Area Listings

This section is devoted to the creation of detailed lists by areas. There is no need to take a whole diocese - a town dealt with in adequate detail is a preferable area of research to a county covered superficially. Here is an outline guide for members wishing to list organs in depth. Such lists will be invaluable to area supervisors.

At present I am listing the organs of the Chichester Diocese, with a good deal of help from Mr. Charles Drane, Mr. J. R. Knott and others, and I suggest that the form I have adopted of presenting the evidence might be considered as standard procedure.

The survey should fall into four parts -

- Part 1 should list organs alphabetically with the barest details. All that is required in fact is date, builder, and number of manuals, and a very brief history if the organ seems to warrant it, including sources of information. The presence of a case should be noted,
- Part 2 should be made up of the 'listed' organs - i. e. organs of historic or artistic importance according to BIOS criteria suggested above. Here fuller accounts of organs are submitted (see Poling) with their more detailed history, if known.
- Part 3 should contain historical accounts of organs in the diocese which have been superseded or destroyed.
- Part 4 Appendices should carry full transcriptions or facsimiles of relevant documents found on organs or organ music.

Space forbids a full illustration of this scheme, but some extracts from my Survey (in hand) of the Arundel and Bognor Regis Deanery (Sussex) will perhaps serve to indicate the character of the reports envisaged.

Part 1 (Basic information)

- Aldingbourne 1 man: Positive organ. Archives record the granting of a faculty for the erection of an organ in April 1909, and for an electric blower in 1959. (CRO Par. 1.4.6. & 15)
 S. Mary
- Angmering 2 man: Hill (date?) Archives record that the church was rebuilt 1852-3. (CRO Par. 6.12.2)
- Arundel
 Parish Church 3 man: Hill c. 1870. Archives record a good deal about the former organ by Gray (see Part III).
 RC Cathedral 3 man: Hill 1873, which was built originally for the RC chapel in Duncan Terrace, Islington, though it was moved to Arundel very shortly after it was built. New action & console 1890, reeds revoiced. In 1931 it was again extensively renovated and nearly all the reeds were again revoiced. Other tonal changes were made. (Hill, and HNB order books, and Castle and Cathedral archives). In 1966 further alterations were made (see Part II).
 T rinity Cong. In Hill, Norman & Beard's list of 1924: either Hill, therefore, or Norman and Beard.
- Barnham 2 man: Melodia ^s.
 S. Mary
- South Bersted Problems here - Buckingham lists the organ (at 'Bersted Nr. Bognor') and says it was by Masterman & Co. Hatton Garden 1808, but "I think it was made by Bryceson" (The Organ LII 104). The parish records say that the church was restored in 1881 (19. 1. 1.), when Walker built a 3 man: organ for the church. It has since been replaced by a Walker Model Organ.....

Part II (Listed Organs)

(as an example of treatment, here is the entry for Poling S. Nicholas.)

- Poling (The Parish Church) Plate on the console records 'Gardner & Sons, Organ Builders, Arundel'. No information on maintenance. Organ c. 1840.
Position NW end of Nave
Action T racker ^ 1
Compasses Manuals C - g Pedals C -
Keys Ivory covered, ebony accidentals
 Pedalboard straight &: flat
Stops Placed over the keyboard in a straight line.
 Heads have ivory insets which are engraved in Gothic lettering.
Shanks Round
Blower Electric. No tell-tale now.
Accessories None
History Nothing much apparent except for a plaque on the right hand side of the case which reads 'This or-

gan was presented to Poling Church by George Pocock who was born in the parish on March 18th, 1843'. No history of the organ is to be found in the church, but local information suggests that the organ was once at the E. end of the S. aisle and came to Poling c.1880.

Specification

Bourdon 16, Open Diapason 8, Dulciana 8, Stop Diapason Bass 8, Clarabella Treble 8, Gemshorn 4. Two further stops have their labels rubbed away, but they are Gamba 8, and Fifteenth 2.

Case

Made of oak. 2420 x 3500 (approx) x 1090. Dummy front pipes gilded, arranged 3, 5, 19, 5,3 in a heavy Gothic case of some robustness and character.

Part III (History of superseded or destroyed organs)

Space forbids inclusion of the entry for Arundel Parish Church, but, in fact, considerable documentary material survives relating to the organ-installed in 1817 by William Gray - an organ of 3 manuals, placed upon the screen at the east end of the Nave. Although the organ was superseded by the Hill organ in c. 1870, an illustration of it in position on the gallery survives, we know the specification as it was recorded by Sperling, there are full details of its rebuilding by Joseph Walker in 1865, and the accounts offer much detail relating to its maintenance in the years between erection and disposal. In the Survey, these are transcribed in full.

Part IV (Appendices)

Again, space forbids inclusion.

Nicholas Plumley
Chairman of the Listing Committee

FINEDON

Several members have enquired about the organ illustrated on our present cover. The drawing, by Dr. Hill, shows

the organ in Finedon Parish Church, in Northamptonshire - surely one of our finest and least spoilt early organs. It was built by Christopher Shrider, Father Smith's son-in-law and successor, in 1717, restored and then rebuilt by the conservative Victorian builder, G.M.Holdich, in 1852, and 1872; in 1882 Trustam added the Open Wood and (in 1888) introduced a new Trumpet, Phipps cleaned it c. 1900, and the organ was restored by Noel Mander in 1960. The specification is now:

Great Organ		Swell Organ		Choir Organ	
Open Diapason	8 *	Open Diapason	8	Stopped Diapason	8*
Stopped Diapason	8 *	Stopped Diapason	8*	Dulciana	8
Gamba	8	Principal	4	Principal	4*
Principal	4 *	F ifteenth	2 *	Flute	4
T welvth	3 *	Echo Mixture (19.22)*	Fifteenth		2*
F ifteenth	2 *	Horn	8		
Sesquialtera (17.19.22)*				Pedal Organ	
T rumpet	8			Open Pedal Pipes	16
				Bourdon P. Pipes	16

* indicates ranks largely consisting of Shrider's console is now on the N. side of the case and is Holdich

DIGEST

Patrick Moule (organs adviser, dioceses of Salisbury, and Bath&Wells) has written to the Editor with news of the re-sited and re-

built organ in Milton Abbey, Dorset. We quote from a leaflet which announces a series of recitals "To celebrate the restoration of the Organ" - "The organ, one of the most distinguished in Dorset, is an unusual survival of the best period of English organ building. It was made in the 1850's by Gray and Davison, who also built the larger instrument in Sherborne Abbey (which survived intact until an unfortunate rebuild by Walker's in the 1950's - Ed.) and has been almost untouched until its present restoration by Bishop & Son, among whose most notable work in recent years has been the superb restoration of the 1674 organ at Framlingham in Suffolk. The Gray and Davison work has been meticulously preserved, although cleaning and repair have returned it to its original beauty, while four stops have been added, one to give the Swell Organ a degree of balance almost always lacking at the time of making, and three others to provide the Pedal Organ with modest independence, a concept entirely absent then. The additions have not effected the old work and can be disregarded if a pure view of the original organ is desired. They do however add to the effectiveness of the organ in its present function, so very different from that of the 1850's. Before its restoration the organ stood in the north aisle where its uninspiring appearance mattered less (it has now been mounted on the medieval pulpitum in the Abbey Church - Ed.). The splendid 17th century case front (all that remains) of the Harris organ in the redundant church of S. Mary, Lambeth has been acquired and stored in the south transept until funds are available to clothe the east front of this organ with it."

The revised specification is as follows:

Great Organ		Swell Organ		Pedal Organ	
Open Diapason	8	Double Diapason	16	Grand Open Diapason	16
Stopped Diapason	Bass 8	Open Diapason	8	Principal	8*
Clarinet Flute (c)) 8	Stopped Diapason	8	F ifteenth	4*
Dulciana (c)	8	Ke raulophon	8	Posaune	16«
Principal	4	Principal	4	* new stops	
Flute (c)	4	F ifteenth	2		
T welfth	2 ₃	Mixture	II *		
F ifteenth	2	Cornocean	8		
Mixture	III				
T rumpet	8				

The recitals are to be given by Richard Seal (June 15), Peter Hurford (July 11), and Trevor Doar (September 22); all commence at 7.30 pm; programmes at the door, or from the Bursar, Milton Abbey School, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

Those who read Dr. Gerald Sumner's account of the Preston Public Hall organ in the 1977 BIOS Journal will be interested (and, we trust, alarmed) to hear that the local authority has now applied for permission to demolish the Hall. Fortunately, this is a Georgian structure, and is 'listed'. We understand that upwards of 100 objections have been entered and a public enquiry is thus to be held. BIOS has objected, on the grounds that the demolition of the Hall would almost inevitably lead to the destruction of the organ. An instrument of this kind is intimately connected with the building in which it

stands, and the organ will never be the same once its 'acoustic space'¹ has been destroyed. BIOS will hope to make representations at the public enquiry together with other interested conservation groups (though we promise members that we shall not be responsible for any repetition of the excitement engendered by the recent Winchester By-pass enquiry!).

Two Reminders: first, may we put in a plea for all members whose subscriptions are due for renewal to respond promptly to this reminder? BIOS is run on a financial shoe-string, and any dislocation in the flow of subscriptions can cause major problems. No further issues of the Reporter can be sent to members whose subscriptions remain unpaid. Secondly, we hope that those members who have yet to take action over the Residential Conference at Manchester will do so as soon as possible; we look forward to meeting as many members as may be on that occasion. Please fill in your forms without delay, and despatch them to Michael Sayer.

The Residential Conference will include the Annual General Meeting of BIOS which will take place on Thursday, July 27, at 11.30 am in Ashburne Hall, University of Manchester - this should be taken as official notification of the fact. At that meeting, the Elections for the officerships and committee places will take place. Forms for nominations are enclosed with this issue of the Reporter and should be completed and returned to the Secretary by 9.00 am on the morning of Thursday, July 27th. In order to ensure that some elections occur each year (both officerships and committee places are held for two years at a time) it is proposed that the 3 names which achieve most votes in the poll for the 6 committee places should serve for the full 2 years, whilst the other 3 members elected should serve, initially for just one year (thereafter, we can revert to full terms); failing this, we shall only have elections every 2 years.

A "Summer School of English Organ Music" is to be held at Cleveland Lodge, Dorking between the 7th and the 12th of August this year. This is a course for advanced students, and the Director is Lady Susi Jeans. Subjects for study include - Ornamentation, Paleography, French and English keyboard music in the 17th century (mutual influences), Pitch, Temperament, Transposition, Organ cases, Organ restoration, the Voluntary for Double Organ, the English Organ Concerto, etc. etc. Speakers include Michael Gillingham, Christopher Kent, Guy Oldham, Christopher Stevens, and, of course, Lady Jeans. We feel certain that this School will be of interest to the more advanced performers among our membership, and hope that they will support it. Further details from Lady Jeans (Cleveland Lodge, Dorking).

The Organ Historical Trust of Australia is to hold a two-day conference on Organ Preservation in Melbourne (May 13-15). We wish this sister body well and continue to value the links between our two societies. Instruments to be visited during the conference include organs by George Fincham (1900), T. C. Lewis (1881), and J.W. Walker (1865). It is of interest (especially in the light of the preceding material in this issue of the Reporter) that New South Wales now has legislation under which it should prove possible to 'list' historic organs officially.

The next issue of the Reporter will revert to the customary format with the regular features.

AIMS OF BIOS

1. To promote objective scholarly research into the history of the Organ and its music in all its aspects, and, in particular, into the history of the Organ and its music in Britain.
2. To conserve the sources and materials for the history of the Organ in Britain, and to make them accessible to scholars.
3. To work for the preservation, and, where necessary, the faithful restoration of historic organs in Britain.
4. To encourage an exchange of scholarship with similar bodies and individuals abroad, and to promote a greater appreciation of historical overseas and continental schools of organ building in Britain.

