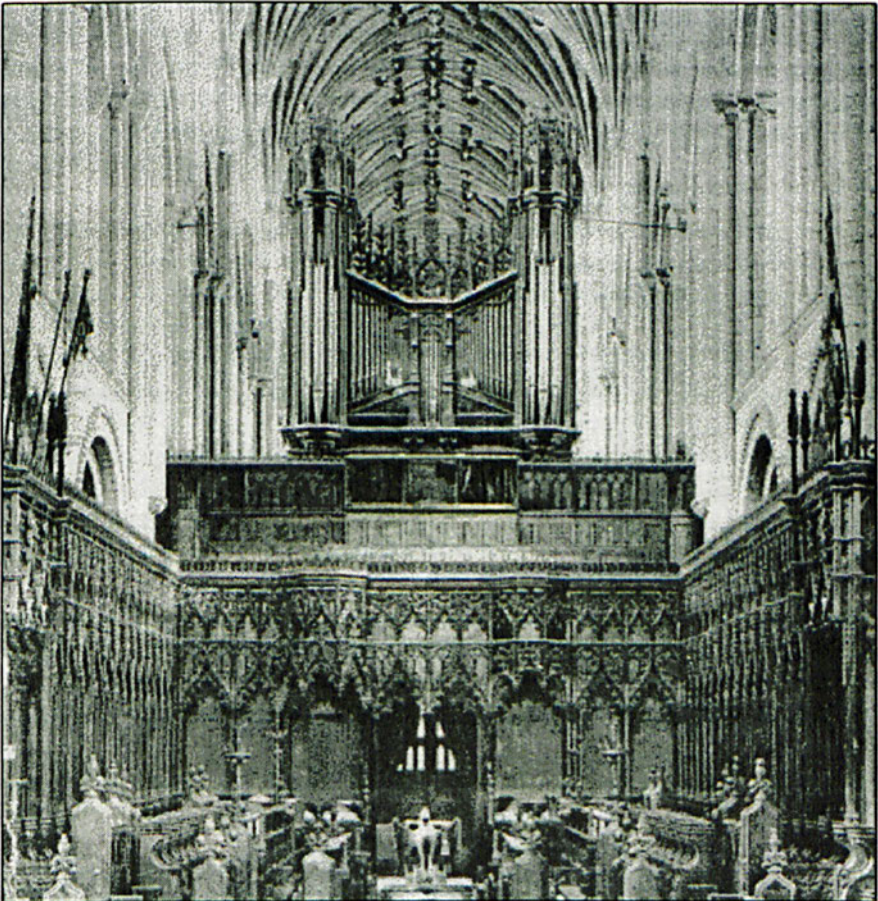


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BIOS REPORTER

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THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF ORGAN STUDIES (BIOS)

Website: <http://www.bios.org.uk>

BIOS is a registered charity (number 283936) and the amenity society for the British organ. It publishes a substantial annual *Journal* and the quarterly *Reporter*-, organises regular day and residential meetings; administers the British Organ Archive, the National Pipe Organ Register and the Historic Organs Certificate Scheme; and undertakes casework in support of its aims. The annual subscription is £25 (ordinary) or £18 (concessionary - at Council's discretion). BIOS publications can be sent by Air Mail to overseas destinations for a further annual payment of £8. Subscriptions are payable by a variety of means and may be covenanted.

Chairman:	Professor Peter Williams, MA, MusB, PhD, LittD, HonFRCO, HonFRSA, [REDACTED]
Secretary:	James Berrow (1998), PhD, [REDACTED]
Treasurer:	Richard Hird (1998), MA, MRTPI, LTCL, [REDACTED]
Membership Secretary:	Kerr Jamieson (1998), MA, ATCL, LLCM, [REDACTED]
Casework and Conservation Officer:	Christopher Gray (1997), MMus, BA, FGMS, FASC, ACertM, [REDACTED]
Publicity Officer:	Timothy Lawford (1998), MA, MMus, FRCO(CHM), [REDACTED]
Information Services Officer:	David M. Baker (1998), MA, MMus, MLS, PhD, FLA, FRCO, FRSA, [REDACTED]
Meetings Officer:	Nigel Browne (1997), MMus, [REDACTED]
Publications Officer:	Reif Clark (1997), MA, MMus, PhD, FRCO, ARCM, LRAM, [REDACTED]
Council:	Derrick Carrington (1995, 1997); Dominic Gwynn (1996, 1998), MA; José Hopkins (1996, 1998), BA, MMus, ACertCM; Alastair J. Johnston, BA, Cert Ed DipEd (1998); Paul Joslin (1997), MMus, GRSM, ARCM, LRAM; David Knight (1997), BMus, MMus, PGCE Co-opted members: John Brennan, (publisher); Andrew Hayden, BMus, MPhil, FTCL, (co-editor <i>Reporter</i>)-, Christopher Kent (overseas liaison); Michael Sayers (NPOR Director).

(The Chairman is elected annually; other elected Officers and Councillors serve for two years, for a maximum of two consecutive terms. Respective election dates are given in brackets. Co-options are annual. All are trustees of the charity.)

Overseas Liaison:	Christopher Kent, MMus, PhD, FRCO, ARCM, [REDACTED]
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EDITORIAL

1999 will be an important year in the political life of the United Kingdom, for it will mark the establishment of devolved power to Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. The distinctive characters of these parts of the United Kingdom will be given some opportunity to express themselves. This seems to be an appropriate cue to reconsider our attitudes to so-called provincial organs, or, as Stenhold & Hopkins so quaintly described them, 'country organs'.

Nobody would doubt the important contribution to nineteenth century organ building made by leading organ builders based in the south-east. Their success and influence was such that they sold many admirable instruments in other parts of the country, perhaps thereby contributing towards a 'London-knows-best' attitude on the part of prospective purchasers. Their contemporaries in so-called provincial firms have tended to be judged against these acknowledged masters and to be regarded as in some way second-best, imitating rather than leading the way.

The report published on pp.26-30 regarding the possible restoration of the Wilkinson Organ from Preston Public Hall, an instrument which has remained silent if largely intact since 1945 through several vicissitudes, reminds us of the scale and importance of these provincial builders. Not only were they capable of creating large organs, as witness the Preston instrument, but the tonal aspects of some of these organs can match, perhaps surpass, their metropolitan rivals. Anyone who has played the twin Telford & Telford organs in Wexford, in the Irish Republic, will be aware of the astonishing tonal variety, responsiveness, and the sheer power of these organs, not to mention their dazzling Pugin inspired cases. The work of Forster & Andrews, ranging from large four manual instruments to small country church organs, demonstrates a sense of purpose, quality and tonal beauty which rarely fails to delight.

The Wilkinson instrument is in a class of its own, representing not only the firm's *magnum opus*, but also an important demonstration of a large Victorian Concert Hall organ. While finding a home for this impressive instrument is going to be difficult, the task of bringing it back to life is both eminently desirable and pressing. If successful, such a restoration, for that is what it must be, would also be tangible evidence of the *raison d'être* of BIOS and would assist enormously in forming a more rounded view of British organ building in every part of the country.

The cover illustration shows the east end view of the organ at Norwich Cathedral after the rebuilding by Bishop in 1834. (Reproduced by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter, Norwich Cathedral.)

MEETINGS

Nigel Browne

BIOS Day Meeting

Saturday 20th February 1999

Department of Music, University of Reading

This is a one day conference on current research. Full details and a booking form can be found in the flyer in the centre of this issue.

BIOS - IBO Joint Meeting

Saturday 6th March 1999

Library Theatre, Birmingham Central Library

This meeting will concentrate on the use of archival and other research sources in work on historic organs. Full details and booking arrangements can be found in the flyer in the centre of this issue.

BIOS Day Meeting

Saturday 12th June 1999

Welbeck, Nottinghamshire

A day organised by Dominic Gwynn as part of an organ exhibition to be held during June and July. Further details and a booking form will be published in the April issue of the *Reporter*.

BIOS Day Meeting

Saturday 3rd July 1999

St. John the Baptist, Holland Road, London

The theme will be: 'Cavaille-Coll: the influence on English Organ Design'. Further details and a booking form will be published in the April issue of the *Reporter*.

BIOS Annual Residential Conference

23rd-26th August 1999

Liverpool Conference

The conference theme will be: 'Ethics and Organs: the Conservation and Restoration of the Organ in Britain'. The conference is organised in conjunction with the Council for the Care of Churches. Further details and booking arrangements will be published in the April issue of the *Reporter*.

BIOS Day Conference
Saturday 2nd October 1999
Wingfield, Suffolk

This conference will be on: 'The Suffolk Fragments and their relationship to Tudor Church Music'. Details of this one day conference will be published in a future issue.

BIOS DAY CONFERENCE
Saturday 7th November 1998
St. Alban's Church Centre, Holborn, London
Compton and Dupré

José Hopkins

One of the main aims of BIOS was more than well served at the one day meeting held at St. Alban's Church Centre, Holborn on Saturday 7th November. The presence of seventy-one members at the meeting attested to this and the organisers are to be congratulated on a day full of interest, diversity and educational content.

The Church of St. Alban's, Holborn, built to the design of William Butterfield, was consecrated in 1863, but bomb damage in World War II necessitated major rebuilding, completed in 1961, when the architect was Adrian Scott. The war damage put paid to the 4 manual "Father" Willis dating from 1893, and the 1961 rebuilding of the church saw the installation of a 3 manual instrument by the John Compton Organ Company at the west end of the building. The consultant was Arnold Richardson, organist of Wolverhampton Civic Hall, and a former organist of the church.

Ian Bell, who worked for the John Compton Organ Co., and was involved as an apprentice with the St. Alban's organ, spoke of the later years of the Company's output, a talk which complemented his earlier one at the August 1998 BIOS Residential Conference. The essence of his lecture encompassed organs after Downside (1931), including churches (Chelsea, Paddington, Mullingar), Southampton Civic Centre, 250 theatre organs, the BBC Concert Hall organ, and rebuilds (Derby Cathedral 1939, St. George's Stockport 1935, and Holy Trinity, Hull, 1938). Endless gadgetry and all-singing, all-dancing consoles combined with the extension principle were the lure which tempted organists / churches to go the Compton way, but the War intervened. Although work continued right up to and after John Compton's retirement in 1953, it became increasingly evident that the path which the company had been treading was a diversion, and that the future lay elsewhere. Nevertheless some good instruments were produced during the best years of the firm's output, and the St. Alban's organ gave a creditable account of itself in the capable hands of Anne Page later in the day.

The St. Alban's organ (3 manuals and pedal, Choir only enclosed) has a detached console in the middle of the gallery facing the 'case' containing Great organ and Tuba. This 'case' never received its woodwork and is on two levels. To the south are the enclosed Choir and the Swell, and on the north the independent Pedal section. Although a fairly traditional tonal scheme was adopted, the greatest problem with the instrument has been (and still is) the ill-judged voicing for the location. Ian recalled the opening pedal notes of Liszt's *Fantasia and Fugue on B.A.C.H.* played by Arnold Richardson at the opening recital, followed by the heads of the audience below immediately whipping around 'as if they'd been shot'.

Patrick Russill (Organist of Brompton Oratory and Director of Church Music Studies at the Royal Academy of Music), then spoke about the *alternatim* tradition of liturgical music in the Roman Catholic Church, the musical illustration of which formed the afternoon session in the church. His talk, in conjunction with excellent handouts, explained the derivation of the *alternatim* practice from Synagogue psalm-singing traditions, half verse by half verse, somewhat like a 'sacred tennis match'. The alternation of choir and organ developed as a liturgical practice over the centuries, and reached its heyday in the sixteenth century, being found not only in France, Italy and other European countries, but also to a considerable degree in Britain.

The *15 Versets for Vespers of the Virgin Mary* by Marcel Dupré, Op. 18 (1920), were performed in an abbreviated musical context in the afternoon by Anne Page and singers from the Brompton Oratory directed by Patrick Russill. These pieces were the last in line of a sequence of *alternatim* collections stretching back to Titelouze and Frescobaldi in the early seventeenth century, via Couperin, de Grigny and others in the Baroque era in France, through Kerll, Muffat and Fischer in South Germany and Austria. Dupré's *Ver sets*, for the Common of Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary, are written down examples of his improvisations for the *alternatim* practice in Notre-Dame de Paris. They were given private performances in Paris and Rouen in 1920 and subsequently in public at the Royal Albert Hall in London in the presence of the Prince of Wales, and played by Dupré himself.

The close relationship of organ music to the chant was always an important factor in the background to the composition of this setting, together with the revival of interest in 'Gregorian' chant (eg. at Solesmes from the 1840s), a renewed interest in modal harmony and increasing interest in the historical French *alternatim* repertory (thanks to Guilmant and Péro). Also important here was the lack of a distinct choral tradition in France and the relative independence of the Gallic ecclesiastical tradition.

The musical performances / illustrations in the afternoon brought to a close an inspiring day, given as they were most appropriately for the listeners with the vista before them of the vast mural by Hans Feibusch, completed in 1966, which covers the

whole of the east wall of the church. More than fifty principal figures (and many more subsidiary ones) make this a vibrant and very recognisable representation of the human condition reaching up to Heaven. The clergy who have served St. Alban's Church are also shown, above the altar, with the confident and uniformed figure of St. Alban, the first British martyr.

BIOS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 7th November 1998

St. Alban's Church, Holborn, London

The Annual General Meeting was well attended and took place within the successful day meeting reported above. For the information of members unable to attend, we report on details of two key issues and reproduce the Officer Reports.

Elections

The Secretary reported on the nominations received and, there being no others, the appointments for Officers and Council were approved: -

Chairman: Professor Peter Williams; Secretary: Dr. Jim Berrow; Treasurer: Richard Hird; Membership Secretary: Kerr Jamieson; Information Services Officer: Dr. David Baker; Publicity Officer: Timothy Lawford; three Ordinary members of Council: Dominic Gwynn, José Hopkins and Alastair Johnston.

Dr. McVicker has retired from Council, as he has served for a continuous period of four years. We are very grateful for his work on our behalf and hope he will remain in close contact. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Baker who fills the vacant role of Information Services Officer and brings to us his distinguished experience as Director of Information Strategy and Services at the University of East Anglia. The new member of Council is Alastair Johnston, Head of Performing Arts at John Hanson School, Andover, who played an important role in the efficient organisation of the 1998 Annual Residential Conference at Bath. Both the Chairman and Secretary asked members to consider suitable names for future nominations or co-options. This was a necessary process for any organisation and would ensure a healthy future.

Aims of BIOS

The Chairman introduced a proposal to revise the fourth aim of BIOS. This had been endorsed by Council and would clarify the clause and make it more comprehensible. It was then agreed to amend it to read: 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?.

Officers' Reports for 1997/98 given at the Annual General Meeting

Chairman

The last twelve months have seen regular BIOS activities as outlined in the tabled reports, and I imagine the biggest change for your Council was in its chairman, who had much to learn about an impressively varied society. I ask for your understanding if, on this one occasion, rather than highlight items in the tabled reports, I thank certain Council members for kind help to me personally:

Jim Berrow, who leads me as Orpheus led Euridice through Hades, though without looking back at me over his shoulder all the time: his grasp, energy and the sheer time he gives, are spectacular.

Richard Hird, whose hold on financial matters serves the Society perfectly and is a great relief to me personally.

Kerr Jamieson, who not only runs the membership list as if it were entirely trouble-free but helped me in thinking about recruitment.

I have been pleased to find Council only too willing to consider new directions. This goes for the Meetings Officer, Nigel Browne, individual conference organisers (José Hopkins, Dominic Gwynn and Christopher Kent), the Officers inspecting or recording actual organs as a, perhaps the, major part of BIOS's brief (Christopher Gray, Michael Sayers and Michael Sayer) and Council members bringing various perspectives (David Knight and Paul Joslin). I would like also to acknowledge the many contributions of William McVicker, Council's one retiring member.

Relf Clark's work as Publications Officer is invaluable, and I warmly appreciate Andrew Hayden and John Hughes's efforts in preparing and seeking to perfect the *Reporter*, as I do Dominic Gwynn's in editing *JOURNAL 21*.

The Redundant Organs Rehousing Company, with whom I had a good visit, needs to find suitable new premises, and we wish them well.

And lastly, I would like to express thanks to Timothy Lawford for today's splendid programme, arrangements for Council meetings and help on recruitment.

We have awarded no honorary memberships this year, but have lost at least one particularly good friend: Donald Findlay, whose work in various arts brought a special perspective to the Society. Also Charles Myers.

I have mentioned recruitment and can report to you that I have been working with Council on new publicity materials, creating an address-list of some 1,000 names, not all British, with a view to sending them a personal letter, a new leaflet on BIOS and a membership form. For this, we are also working on distinctive stationery with the help of John Brennan, whose expertise, of course, goes far beyond typography. We hope to finalize and send out promotion materials before Christmas.

On becoming re-acquainted with BIOS I felt that in its width of interests and, may I say, intellectual authority, the Society does not quite correspond with any I know elsewhere. I suspect that if we have 650 members, we have 650 different emphases. Accordingly, I was less anxious to press my own particular interests on the society than to see whether it might become even wider, attract in some of those hundreds of potential members in Britain and abroad, and develop in ways members would like it to. A Society like ours is as its members make it, and after all, there are some names conspicuously absent from our membership list. We need not fear that a particular emphasis on organ-playing or on organs outside Britain would in any way endanger the aims of BIOS: we shall remain the chief agitators for the well-being and the good name of British organs.

Secretary

The limited time available to Officers and members of Council, coupled with their geographic dispersal has led to difficulty in organising business meetings between the three Council meetings scheduled in the year, along with the Annual General Meeting. Correspondence as a substitute is not as effective and communication can only proceed at the rate of the slowest respondent (often your Secretary!).

The reorganisation of our structure, agreed last year, has worked well and led to clearer lines of responsibility for issues relating to conservation, meetings and publications. Problems are much easier to identify and resolve and we are fortunate to have conscientious post-holders. An exception, the vacant post of Information Services Officer, is dealt with below.

There has been an increase in lobbying on a number of matters linked to the protection of historic organs (for instance, through the Newman Report), funding for conservation and restoration projects (English Heritage and other organisations) and the possibility of setting up a listing system, which would reduce the destruction, export and alteration of historic instruments. Contact and good relations with other national bodies is also on the increase, such as The Churches Conservation Trust and the Victorian Society.

The publication of our Grants booklet has filled an information gap and provides a model for further specialist, desktop-published guides for members and those we seek to influence. However, it raises issues about the time incurred with concomitant 'desktop marketing'.

Some confusion has arisen with the Charity Commission over our revised constitution, agreed at last years' Annual General Meeting, as they appear to see the alterations as proposals rather than a thorough revision and the time available for relevant members to come together and consider this important issue has been limited, but it must be resolved in the coming year.

Dr. Jim Berrow, Secretary

TYeasurer's Financial Report, year ended 30th June 1998

The year's financial affairs are again scarcely remarkable, but it should first be noted

that expenditure exceeded income. The Society has anticipated the various trends contributing to this situation, and the 1997 Annual General Meeting accepted the Council's recommendation for an increase in subscriptions to take effect for 1999. This, with effective management of our resources, should re-establish a better outlook for the next few years.

In General Funds, both lower total receipts and greater total expenditure contributed to the year's negative net outcome. Admittedly, the reclaim for Tax from Covenants (about £1000) has yet to be made, but its receipt would not have outweighed the cumulative extra expenditure incurred - unless one also allows for the £1000 transfer to the Endowment Fund (see below). Of most note on the positive side, the Reserve Account interest and sales increased from the previous year's, publication costs decreased, and we did not purchase any equipment in 1997/98. On the negative side, Council and administrative costs increased; also Conferences were the financial antithesis of the previous somewhat unusually profitable year (even allowing, mentally, for cross year-end adjustments for advance deposits).

Looking ahead into 1999, amongst other matters there will be additional expenditure on the Chairman's intended recruitment drive, and in renewing and up-dating forms and stationery, and publishing the bi-annual address list. The majority of the reserve funds have already been redeployed to maximise the rate of (gross) interest.

Under the Restricted Funds categories, expenditure this year from the Archive Fund was concentrated on indexing work, with a lesser priority able to be given to administrative issues. Given the amount of grant remaining earmarked for the National Pipe Organ Register, Archive funds proper declined by some £1500 to £5638. A significant grant from The Pilgrim Trust (year 1 of 2) is supporting on-going work in expanding and refining the content of the National Pipe Organ Register available on-line from Cambridge. Council is mindful of many opportunities in connection with the Archive and NPOR, not least potential for incurring expense, for example acquiring/incorporating new material in whatever form and/or conserving and microfilming existing material, were more funding available.

Members will note that again there has been no expenditure from the Endowment Fund in 1997/98, though some £3340 accumulated interest was "available for use" at the year end. Council is increasingly concerned to seek ways of boosting the capital investment in this Fund, to better reflect its purpose, which in turn would enhance its value and generate greater amounts of interest, giving Council more scope to consider appropriate uses. As a first small step it has resolved to transfer £1000 from General Funds when possible each year, and to look into the possibility of investing in a Mutual Fund, perhaps through the Charities Aid Foundation, with the aim of benefiting from capital growth as well as receipt of interest. Since the year end, a bequest has added £2000 to the Fund.

In summary for 1997/98, the Accounts demonstrate our financial strengths and weaknesses. As always, the BIOS Treasurer will be pleased to supply a copy of the figures to any member on request. The trading outcome in everyday funds has reached

the point where, as anticipated, income must be (and is being) increased relative to fund current activity. We should not be complacent, however, nor come to depend too much on ad hoc surpluses or grants. We need to continue to search for sustainable means to meet increasing ideals and commitments, striving to fulfil BIOS objectives.
Richard Hird, Honorary Treasurer

Membership Secretary

The membership figures as at 30th June 1998 (with June 1997 figures and subsequent gains and losses for comparison) were as follows:-

Ordinary 503	(521 +22 -40)	Retired	111 (103+16 -8)
Students 11	(1 2 + 3 -4)	Honorary	7 (7 + 0 - 0)
Institutional 14	(1 4 + 0 - 0)	Total	646 (657 +26 -37)

Notes:

1. The figures include 23 (33) members whose 1998 (1997) subscriptions had not yet been received at the financial year end.
 2. Of the 33 members whose subscriptions were reported at the 1997 Annual General Meeting as having been unpaid at 30th June 1997, 22 eventually paid up. Of the 9 members who were reported as having underpaid, 2 eventually made good the deficiency. Under the terms of our Constitution the membership of the remaining 18 persons was terminated.
 3. The figures for individual gains (+) and losses (-) include a small number of transfers between categories, whereas the totals represent absolute gains and losses of members. Thus the total gain and the total loss do not represent the sums of the individual gains and losses respectively.
 4. It is perhaps worth noting that in spite of a slight overall decrease in membership, there has actually been a net increase in the number of members in the retired category. This is accounted for by a larger than normal number of existing members transferring from ordinary membership, rather than an influx of senior citizens.
- Kerr Jamieson, Membership Secretary

Overseas Liaison

The European Organ Index (EOI) - Two meetings have been held towards this project during the past year, in Vienna and St. Polten which, thanks to the support of the University of Reading, it has been possible for this Officer to attend. The initial application to the E.C. for funding was unsuccessful but, following revisions, a re-submission was fruitful and the project is now able to proceed, so that interfaces can be established between the organ databases of Austria, the U.K., Sweden and The Netherlands, in the first instance, with the forthcoming participation of similar projects in France and Portugal. The next meeting of the EOI committee will be held in Prague on 5th November, concurrently with the autumn meeting of the International Association for Organ Documentation (IAOD).

Overseas Enquiries - There has been a steady stream of enquiries, often archival, during the past year, many of which have been answered, thanks to the duplicate copies of the British Organ Archive material held in the Susi Jeans Centre at the University of Reading. Interest in the English organ heritage in South Africa continues

to grow in the wake of Professor Troskie's recent publications. During a recent visit to the Congress of the Musicological Society of South Africa I was able to visit and begin chronicling the 1835 William Hill chamber organ in Grahamstown. Although as long ago as 1961 this instrument was declared a national monument by the South African government, the church would value an endorsement by BIOS.

Future Plans - It has been agreed that the annual conference of the IAOD will be held in Reading in May 2000, to coincide with the reopening of the Willis Organ in Reading Town Hall. It would be appropriate if BIOS were also involved.

Dr. Christopher Kent, Overseas Liaison Officer

Casework and Conservation

The first year of the Casework portfolio has, as expected, resulted in substantial work. A good framework has been established which is undergoing continuous development serving to raise the profile of BIOS, and laying the foundations for the possible role of the Institute as a fully-fledged amenity society.

The arena into which the Casework Officer's role emerged was strongly shaped by the Newman Report on Ecclesiastical Exemption for Listed Building Consent (Department for Culture, Media & Sport), published in September 1997. This recommended that 'exempt denominations should ... compile a relevant list of historic organs, in liaison with the British Institute of Organ Studies', and further suggested that 'where an organ has been identified as being of historic significance, permission to move it should not be given until serious efforts have been made to find it a new home.

These statements have, by and large, caused denominational bodies to wake up to the fact that organs are important to our cultural heritage. As the Institute has been recognised to possess the relevant professional expertise, both in defining 'historic' organs, and advising on their maintenance, such bodies now seem to be willing to accept our advice. Whether this is, in part, a desire to improve procedures in respect of important instruments one cannot be sure; however there is now a greater pursuit of expert opinion about all architectural and historic matters, both within denominational bodies, and also in respect of liaison between the various amenity societies and statutory bodies. In this regard, for example, all organ matters are now referred to us as a matter of course from the Victorian Society, and we are frequently asked for advice from other bodies, including the Historic Churches Committees of the Roman Catholic Church, Diocesan Advisory Committees, and similar bodies in the Free Churches.

Generally the policy is to offer informal advice in order to avoid conflicts at a later stage in faculty or planning matters. Close liaison is also maintained with English Heritage, and the combined leverage of other amenity societies can be a useful tool in cases also involving architectural or re-ordering concerns. Within the Church of England, the Council for the Care of Churches provides an extremely useful sounding-board, and is often able to intervene at rather higher levels in diocesan matters, should this become desirable.

As part of the identification of historic organs, (a task predominantly based on NPOR material), the Historic Organs Certificate Scheme has been in operation for some time now, to try to indicate the most significant instruments within the national corpus (see report below). The Historic Organs Certificate Scheme has now undergone some revisions, most notably in the preparation of brief reports on instruments which are deemed to meet the criteria for an award. This frequently includes an archaeological survey to establish the 'historic' components within instruments, and allows for closer monitoring with diocesan or similar bodies, many of whom are unaware of the important material which they possess and how this should be conserved or restored.

In addition to the administrative work outlined, the day to day workload has been concerned with the usual problems of redundancy, both in terms of building redundancy and other reasons. The aim has been wherever possible and practical to preserve instruments in their current homes; in the case of building redundancy, the issues are often clear-cut; however, frequently one finds that the introduction of re-ordering schemes and electronic substitutes has not been thought through before ejecting a good pipe organ. Our aim is not to be unduly obstructive, but is to offer constructive and helpful advice which will see instruments preserved (and restored where necessary) to the benefit of all.

With respect to redundancies, a weather eye is being kept on the activities of church furnishing firms who have been responsible in recent years for ruining many significant organs by removing their cases. Within the Church of England policies for dealing with redundant instruments have now been established with most dioceses, and within the Free Churches (the worst area for losses), it is anticipated that, with a little more effort, more instruments can be saved in situ or re-housed. The problem with many of the Free Churches is that local churches are often in effect self-governing, operating independently from national or regional structures; thus the amount of jurisdiction that denominational bodies has is limited, and in some cases they are unaware of local activities. This makes the Casework Officer's job all the more difficult.

BIOS, through this office, is also concerned with trying to prevent inappropriate rebuilds including changes to historic actions, conversion of hitch-down to balanced pedals, use of inappropriate materials, or stylistically inappropriate work. These are complex issues. However, thanks to the formation of the IBO, and the English Heritage / Heritage Lottery Joint Scheme scrutiny, there is now an established consensus of opinion as to the sympathetic restoration and conservation of historic material. The problems have not gone away, however, for there are still many organbuilders who carry out inappropriate work in the name of 'restoration', much of which often damages and distorts historic material and is irreversible.

During this year, some nineteen major cases have been dealt with (along with numerous enquiries by telephone), These have included advice on the conservation of organ-cases by Byfield (1752), and Gerard Smith: advice has been sought on several proposed restoration schemes, including a Wadsworth of 1904, a Willis of 1876, a Conacher of 1899, and a Nicholson of 1872. Re-ordering and redundancy cases have

had a fairly high throughput; however several ejections of instruments in favour of electronic substitutes have been thwarted / postponed / rethought, as a result of our involvement. These include a Conacher of 1901, a Hill of 1855, and an organ by Driver & Co. of 1896 (which is now to be restored).

Obviously this work is extremely demanding on an officer's time, and one could reasonably argue that by its very nature, one can never catch up with all cases before they are irretrievable. We cannot save everything, nor would we necessarily wish to, however it is important to realise that the historic instruments which remain unaltered are important, and should ideally be conserved or restored as appropriate. The key to ensuring that this happens is to identify threatened instruments at an early stage. With the support of the BIOS membership in this regard, I am confident that the future bodes well.

Christopher Gray, Caseworker and Conservation Officer

Historic Organs Certificate Scheme

The identification of historic organs from the NPOR continues steadily and over 180 Certificates have now been issued or offered; not all offers are immediately accepted. Criteria for historic organ status remain flexibly defined as in my 1987 Report. In a few cases, an owner has asked for a Historic Organ Certificate, but not all of these claims can be supported from the evidence currently available. We have one case of a Historic Organ being moved to another location (a Gray & Davison of 1852) and the Certificate will go with it, as the renovation work is being done by sympathetic and reliable BIOS members.

Dr. Michael Sayer, Administrator, HOCS

Publicity

Regular notice of BIOS and its future events have appeared in the *Organists' Review*. The *R.C.O. News* has failed to include any reference to BIOS, despite assurances that the material would be printed, and despite being submitted in good time. This is being taken up with the College. The suggested inclusion of BIOS notices in *Choir and Organ* was considered prohibitively costly. The 'BIOS Column' in *Organists' Review* was threatened with a reduction to two or, possibly, only one appearance a year due to pressure with space, but this has now been resolved. Because *Organists' Review* is to be increased in size, the 'BIOS Column' will appear in every issue, subject to being limited to one column, which amounts to one half of a page, or approximately 650 words.

On recruitment, a major effort is under way to increase membership and will be undertaken shortly after the Annual General Meeting. A list of about 1,000 names of potential recruits has been assembled to include players, advisers, historians and those with various other interests. The Chairman and Membership Secretary are partners in this drive.

Timothy Lawford, Publicity Officer

Information Services

This post is vacant. It was envisaged as a strategic position, co-ordinating the work of

the Archive and NPOR and seeking opportunities to produce publications arising from these resources. In the event, perhaps potential candidates are intimidated by the technical aspects of archival work, but a resolution appears to be in sight.
(Jim Berrow, Secretary)

Archive

This post is vacant. However, during the year the Secretary (who, with Dr. Thistlethwaite, is also a trustee of the British Organ Archive) has maintained contact with the staff of the Birmingham City Archive where the collection is housed. The staff now answers queries by telephone or post but, necessarily, these must be time limited (usually thirty minutes) and technical questions cannot be responded to. We appreciate the work done in maintaining access and, particularly, the high standard of care and conservation work which the collection now enjoys.

Subject to the appointment of a Society Archivist, we seek informed volunteers, within reasonable travelling distance of Birmingham, who might assist with routine, but important, work. It would also be sensible to form a panel of independent searchers, available at an agreed commercial rate, who can provide assistance with extended enquiries.

Mr. David Wickens has continued his association with the Archive and thanks are due to his continuing exceptional work with the index and the Directory of British Organ Builders, which is described in the NPOR report (below).
(Jim Berrow, Secretary)

NPOR

The National Pipe Organ Register project has been successfully continued with the funds provided for the years 1998/9 by the Pilgrim Trust. Two part-time members of staff have been involved (Paul Houghton as Manager of the database and David Atkinson as editor). Both have the required expertise and enthusiasm and are contributing greatly to the project.

The NPOR has been extended to encompass the Directory of British Organ Builders and the fledgling index to the materials in the British Organ Archive. David Wickens has been engaged in converting this manual index into a computer database. Initial work was on a stand-alone PC without an Internet connection and a Microsoft Access database of 16,000 entries has been constructed. This has now been transferred to the main Oracle system and linked to the NPOR so that it can be accessed from the Internet. Further work on linking the archive index entries (from organ builders' records) with the NPOR organ surveys needs to be done on the main Oracle database. A modern PC, with Internet access facilities, has been purchased (from funds provided by the Pilgrim Trust) so that David Wickens can further this work.

The NPOR now contains:

- 24,000 organ surveys in the main NPOR database,
- 3,600 people / firms in the Directory of British Organ Builders and
- 16,000 entries in the British Organ Archive index.

Work is being done to link records between these databases so that users may easily browse between them.

Use of the NPOR: Enquiries continue to grow. Not all these relate to serious users, of course, and we have built a more sophisticated recording mechanism in order to get a better idea of users' behaviour. Statistics gathered by this new method show that since June 1998 there have been between 270 and 300 searches a day. Of these, 50% are searches for information about organs in a particular place and 16% for information on the work of particular builders. Users come from all over the world, with substantial queries from Australia, the United States and Holland. It is interesting to note the growth of the use of electronic mail by people sending us information and corrections.

Future Work: Work on improving the coverage and accuracy of the database will continue and it is pleasing to record that the amount of information being received from users of the database (organists, organ builders, diocesan organ advisors, historians, organ enthusiasts and members of the public generally) is increasing all the time. It is barely within the project team's capacity to deal with it in a timely fashion.

Work will continue on improvements to the software which aids Internet users in their information searches. Considerable effort will continue to be devoted to improving the links between the organ surveys, and the historical information on organ-building firms and the index of the historical material held in the British Organ Archive.

The form in which the dates of particular organs (or of substantial pieces of work on organs) are held in the database is not helpful for searching for work of a particular historical period. At present, dates are held in the style in which they were originally presented. Some effort will be devoted to sorting the different forms of dates and to storing a 'not before' and a 'not after' date for each identifiable piece of work. This will make searching a lot easier and consistent.

It is expected that the Project Steering Committee (established to meet the requirements of the Pilgrim Trust) will meet in November to review the work to date and to agree the plans for the second year of the project. An item for consideration will be the long term future of the NPOR and the part which commercial sponsorship and users' subscriptions might play in this. A first step might be to ask users to register (rather than the present situation where anyone can access the database at any time on an ad-hoc basis). This would encourage a relationship to be built up between users and the project and will enable us to improve our understanding of users' requirements and investigate their response to possible charging schemes, for instance, the idea of an annual subscription to non-members.

Dr. Michael Sayers, Director NPOR

Meetings

During the first year of my term of office, my time has been divided between co-ordinating meetings that were already planned before my appointment, overseeing the origination and planning of further meetings, and 'hands-on' experience of planning

and organising an event as co-organiser of this year's Annual Residential Conference at Bath Spa University.

The meetings held since the last Annual General Meeting have covered a fairly wide geographical and historical area, from Snetzler to the new Klais organ at Bath Abbey, and from Cambridge to Cardiff. I am concerned to widen that scope still further, and future plans include a day on the sixteenth-century 'Suffolk fragments', and events further north at Welbeck and Liverpool. There are also suggestions for future events in North Wales, Eire and Northern England. The major event for next year is the special residential conference in Liverpool on the conservation and restoration of organs in Britain. This is being organised in conjunction with the Council for the Care of Churches and other bodies, and it is hoped will attract attendance from a wide spectrum of interest both inside and outside BIOS.

I thank all those who have been involved in the planning and organisation of events over the last year, and all those who have taken part, either as players, speakers or listeners. I would also be delighted to receive proposals for future events, and offers of help in organising them.

Nigel Browne, Meetings Officer

Publications

The past year has been one of consolidation rather than innovation. So far as the *Reporter* is concerned, there were meetings, in Norwich and Swansea, at which the essential nature of this publication was discussed at length, the relevant part of my report to Council of 6th June 1998 was accepted as a fair statement of what the Society requires, and the July edition went a long way towards implementing those requirements. I am grateful indeed to Andrew Hayden and John Hughes for all their hard work, and particularly for their willingness to give up their spare time not only to attend meetings but also to deal with the increase in correspondence created by my appointment. The continuity of the *Reporter* - which is the only conduit between Council and the membership - is crucial to the smooth running of the Society, and we owe a great debt to the editorial team. We owe a great debt, too, to Professor Williams, who has taken a keen interest in the *Reporter* and contributed much to the various discussions on the subject.

April saw the appearance of *Journal 21* (1997), and I take this opportunity to thank our publisher for his work in that connection, and to thank Dominic Gwynn, who acted as editor, and Andrew McCrea, who dealt with the reviews. Those involved with *Journal 22* (1998) are striving to achieve publication this year: the aim as I understand it is to deliver all the material to the printers by mid-November. Editors have been appointed for *Journal 23* (1999), *Journal 24* (2000) and *Journal 25* (2001), and I hope that by appointing editors well in advance, we will be able to meet the cut-off dates specified by the publisher and in that way ensure that each edition appears in the year in which it is supposed to.

Dr. Relf Clark, Publications Officer

DIOCESAN ORGAN ADVISERS CONFERENCE

5th-7th October 1998

University of East Anglia

Andrew Hayden

Some 40 delegates attended this year's Diocesan Organ Advisers Conference at the University of East Anglia. BIOS was well represented through advisers and members of other associated bodies and, since BIOS becomes involved one way or another whenever an historically important instrument is under scrutiny, decisions which reflect the general policy adopted by BIOS can have an influence on diocesan advisory thinking and vice-versa. This conference discussed at some length the problems besetting the organ in St. Margaret's Church, Kings Lynn, which were outlined in *BIO SR XXII*, No.4, pp. 17-19.

The conference was spread over three days and covered a wide variety of topics. Importantly, the first seminar dealt with the relationship between the Diocese and its constituent parishes. Donald Ray, chairman of the Norwich DAC, and Elizabeth Halfacre, Secretary to Norwich DAC, covered issues such as the parish's intentions towards its instrument, the relationship between the Adviser and the DAC, and the need for involvement of the Committee and Adviser from the start when matters such as re-ordering were contemplated. At all times the aim was to achieve some form of concensus and it was heartening to note that Norwich DAC lays great store on the advice given by its advisory panel.

Monday continued with a case study of fundraising by Ann Davis, Churchwarden at Lound Parish Church, Suffolk. The church is home to a fine Comper case and 'small' organ by Harrison dating from 1913 which was restored a few years ago by Richard Bower. Dogged persistence and an inexhaustible supply of postage stamps seemed to be the order of the day. The result showed that even the smallest parish church can achieve something quite out of proportion to the size of its electoral role. The day continued into the evening with talks given on the Conservation and Exploitation of County Record Office collections by John Alban, Norfolk County Archivist, and the East Anglian Film Archive showing footage of John Betjeman's tours of Norfolk, churches and conservation issues captured on film. John Alban as well as detailing the work of conserving materials following the fire at Norwich Central Library was able to produce original documentation relevant to an organ delegates were later to visit in Kings Lynn.

David Baker, Norwich DOA, concluded Monday's proceedings with a case study of the 1793 James Davis organ at Wymondham Abbey, which survived with only minor alterations until the mid 1950's as a fine example of a late 18th century parish church

organ - only to be rebuilt and re-packaged as a modern three manual and pedal instrument; in fairness, much of the pipework survives relatively untouched as do all the soundboards and parts of the action. Dr. Baker's paper provoked some thought about what could or would be done in the event of the instrument needing overhaul, restoration or whatever.

Tuesday presented a full day including visits to an organ works and two instruments of note. St Margaret's, Kings Lynn, contains parts of a Snetzler organ with important and considerable additions by Wordsworth in 1895. After a Conference Eucharist celebrated by the Revd. A. Hurdman, accompanied by John Jordan, Organist to St Margaret's, lectures were given by Paul Hale, independent consultant, and Dominic Gwynn who had conducted an historical survey. Conference then divided into groups charged with giving their views on the instrument. It soon became clear during the plenary session, chaired by Alan Thurlow, that there was not an easy answer.

Tuesday afternoon began with a visit to St Nicholas's Parish Church, Dereham. The church contains an 1875 rebuild by Hill of an earlier organ by Joseph Hart from 1827. This in turn incorporated material from a chamber organ by Father Smith, originally in Rougham Hall, Norfolk. In 1995, Richard Bower undertook a comprehensive review of the instrument resulting in a reconstruction which aimed to present the different periods of the organ's history in a clear light, the admirable qualities of which were ably demonstrated by Richard Bower in a short recital. The reconstruction included the building of a new Chair organ containing most of the Smith pipework as well as placing the pedal organ, with augmentations, on new direct electric chests. The Dereham instrument was one of the last to be put through Bower & Co.'s premises in Wroxham; the firm then moved to more spacious accommodation in Weston Longville and it was here that the Conference continued with a late afternoon session on pipe voicing. Delegates had the opportunity to gain some first hand experience of the trickier aspects surrounding this facet of organ construction.

Arnold Miller, Head of BBC East and a lifelong church organist gave the after dinner speech in the evening and reminded delegates of the regular weekly commitment of the many organists served by their DOAs.

The final day, Wednesday, was given over to a variety of topics including the success or otherwise of grant applications, small organs, and harmonium conservation. Jim Berrow, in his role as a member of the Organs Advisory Committee of the Council for the Care of Churches, outlined the criteria necessary for a successful grant application. He noted the importance to be attached to adequate documentation including photographs showing the relationship of the instrument to the building in which it stood, as well as the usual detailed work. This was a point often overlooked by applicants.

David Baker's talk covered territory sometimes denied by the more ambitious of the organ fraternity: the effectiveness of the small organ. Norfolk abounds in small instruments in its churches, many by notable builders. For the purpose to which they are mainly put, they continue to provide good service and are often surprisingly flexible. They deserve more sympathetic treatment than is sometimes the case. Bruce Draycot opened up a topic which, like the small organ, is only now really attracting due attention: the harmonium. There is a surprising quantity of these instruments still in use in rural parishes. There is also a small but increasing number of instruments which has been restored rather than consigned to the bonfire or converted to drinks cabinets! The results often astonish and prove that the harmonium can be an effective, independent and maintenance-free instrument able to fulfil the needs of smaller congregations.

The Conference was brought to a close with a forum chaired again by Alan Thurlow and a talk by Jim Berrow on plans for the 1999 Conference to be held in Birmingham. The Conference was welcome proof that the system by which the future of church organs is decided, whilst perhaps not as streamlined as it might be, is able to contend with a wide variety of opinions and produce effective solutions to some of the less tractable problems it encounters. The need for BIOS to ensure that its message is heard and understood remains however and in this, the conference plans for 1999 can only be to the good. Thanks are due to those who contributed during the three days, and especially to the host, David Baker at UEA.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Kerr Jamieson

A happy New Year to you all! And so once again it's time for subscription renewals. Those members who don't have banker's orders or annual credit / debit card arrangements should therefore receive reminder forms with this issue. It would be greatly appreciated if the forms could be completed and returned to me as soon as possible with the appropriate remittances, or (preferably) with the Banker's Order sections filled-in. The latter option greatly simplifies this annual process for everyone concerned, and is recommended for serious consideration by those who don't already use this method of payment. Please note that for the first time in several years it has been necessary for us to increase the subscription rates, and also that credit / debit card payments are, regrettably, no longer offered as an option, because of an unacceptable increase in the charges imposed by the banks which service these schemes. However, members who have existing annual credit/debit card standing orders should already have had this year's subscriptions debited to their accounts, but new arrangements will be required for next year. The Treasurer will be in touch with those who are affected.

Anyone who has a supply of Membership forms is asked to ensure that the current subscription information is inserted, and that the credit/debit card section is deleted, before passing the forms on to prospective new members. As required by law, BIOS is now registered with the Data Protection Registrar (data user 10071717; registration number X3916729) in respect of personal data held on computer for membership administration purposes.

We offer a warm welcome to the following new members:-

Peter L. Abraham, MA: [REDACTED]

Jonathan M. Buchan: [REDACTED]

Andrew Linley: [REDACTED]

Ian Low: [REDACTED]

Dr. G. Grant O'Brien: [REDACTED]

Alastair J.M. Rushworth: [REDACTED]

David J. Rusinas BMus: [REDACTED]

Peter Smith: [REDACTED]

Iain Stinson, MSc: [REDACTED]

Stuart A.I. Thompson, GRSM LRAM: [REDACTED]

Andrew G. Thomson, BMus ARCM: [REDACTED]

Please note the following additions / corrections / changes / deletions, etc.:-

[REDACTED]



THE NATIONAL PIPE ORGAN REGISTER

Mike Sayers

The National Pipe Organ Register (NPOR), founded in 1991, is now firmly established as a source of useful information on pipe organs in the UK. Around 24,000 organ surveys are stored and their accuracy has been much improved over the past two or three years through the information collected by BIOS members and others and passed on to the NPOR team.

Now that the NPOR is so large, it is not feasible to publish copies in paper form. They would occupy yards of shelf space and it would not be possible to search easily for any particular piece of information. Fortunately, computer technology has kept pace with the expansion of the NPOR and a surprisingly large number of potential users has access to the world-wide-web and the Internet. All the information in the NPOR is stored on-line, including photographs and drawings, and can be viewed by anyone with a reasonably up-to-date web browser and Internet connection. The address of the NPOR is <http://www.bios.org.uk/npor.html> Through the Internet, anyone can get

Midlands (98/31)	Bryceson cl890	
Action	mechanical	
Specification	Gt 8 8 4 22/3 2 1 Sw 8 8 4 2 Pd 16	Casework: pipe-rack above impost Dimensions: h 11' w 7'd 7' plus pedalboard
N. England (98/27)	Hele cl910/Willis 1950	
Action	electro-pneumatic, detached console	
Specification	Gt 1 6 8 8 8 8 4 4 22/3 2 III 8 Sw 8 8 8 8 4 III 16 8 8 4 Pd 32ac 16 16 16 8 4 16	Casework: piperack Dimensions: h 16' approx 17' by 18'
N. England (98/29)	Binns 1924	
Action	pneumatic	
Specification	Gt 8 8 8 8 4 2 Sw 8 8 8 8 4 II 8 Pd 32ac 16 8	Casework: details awaited Dimensions: h 19' reducible w 12'd 16'
N. England (98/30)	Lewis 1883/Vincent cl960*	
Action	electro-pneumatic, detached console	
Specification	Gt 16 8 8 8 8 4 4 22/3 2 IV 16 8 4 Sw 1 6 8 8 8 8 4 2 III 1 6 8 8 4 Ch 8 8 4 22/3 2 8 8 Pd 16 16 16 8 8 8 4 4 16 8 4	Casework: details awaited Dimensions: h 25' w 15' d 18' 6"
S.E. England (98/23)	Bevington 1864	
Action	mechanical	
Specification	Man 8b/t 8 8 4 Pd one octave pulldowns	Casework: piperack Dimensions: h 11' 8" w 6' 10" d 4' 8" plus pedalboard
S.E. England (98/24)	Henry Jones 1895	
Action	mechanical (manuals), pneumatic (pedals)	
Specification	Gt 8 8 8 4 2 Sw 8 8b/t 4 2 III Pd 16	Casework: piperack front, panelled sides Dimensions: h 16' w 9'd 8' inclusive
S.E. England (98/25)	Bevington cl850 *	
Action	mechanical	
Specification	Gt 8 8 8 4 III Sw 8 4 8 (spare slide) Pd 16	Casework: architectural Dimensions: h 12' w 8'd 5'
N. England (98/32)	Vincent cl904	
Action	mechanical (manuals), pneumatic (pedals)	
Specification	Gt 8 8 4 2 Sw 8 8 8 4 8 Ch 8 4 8 Pd 16 8	Casework: details awaited Dimensions: h 15' w 8'd 8'

S.E. England (98/35)	reb Reeve 1925	
Action	mechanical (manuals), pneumatic (pedals)	
Specification	Gt 8 8 8 4 Sw 8 8 S 4 Pd 16	Casework: post and rail, some side panelling Dimensions: h 15' 4" w 9' 3" d 11'
S.W. England (98/33)	anon cl880	
Action	mechanical	
Specification	Man 8 8b 8 8 8 4 2 Pd 16	Casework: pipe-rack Dimensions: h 11' w 6' 2" d 9' 6" (reducible)
W. England (98/34)	Parsons cl830 *	
Action	mechanical	
Specification	Man 8b/t 8 4 22/3 2 Pd 16 (20 notes)	Casework: architectural Dimensions: h 8 '6" w 5' 1" d 4' 8"
S.E. England (98/26)	Walker C1893	
Action	mechanical (manuals), pneumatic (pedals)	
Specification	Man 8 8 8 4 2 Oct cplr Pd 16	Casework: piperack front, panelled sides Dimensions: h 15' w 7' 6" d 5' 6"

* denotes an organ which should be retained in the United Kingdom

Please contact Roy Williamson with any redundancy or placement query at:

FATES

BIOSR XX, No.3 briefly recorded that 94/20, a three manual Binns in St Paul's Church, Newport, Gwent had been acquired for Leeds Grammar School. On 7th October 1998, Carlo Curley gave the inaugural recital on the refurbished Binns in the school's new premises at Alwoodley Gates, Leeds. Peter Wood of Harrogate has been responsible for the organ's acquisition and restoration. He was particularly attracted to it because of its concert specification (it had been built in 1906 for the Central Hall, Newport) and because Binns was a Leeds builder. The organ has, in a real sense, come home. Some members may dislike the fact that the original specification has been enlarged, the reservoirs and pneumatic action dispensed with and other alterations employed to fit the instrument into a modern building. The latter fact has also meant that the gorgeous casework from floor to impost could not be reused. On the plus side, however, a prime example of Binns's early 20th century work has been rescued and will meet the various and heavy demands of an important school's music department for the foreseeable future. It should be stated that, but for the existence of the Redundancy Service and Peter Wood's vision, this organ would have been lost to local scrap dealers.

REDUNDANT ORGAN REHOUSING COMPANY LTD.

Web address: <http://www.musiclink.co.uk/orcl>

1998 ANNUAL REPORT

Derrick Carrington

In its second year of trading the company has made a gross profit of about £1,500 (subject to audit) compared with a loss in the first year of just under £1,000. As income is now fairly steady, we have been able to repay two thirds of the original director's loans and hope to clear the remaining amount during the current year, as well as be able to reimburse all the directors' expenses. While it is pleasing that the operation is becoming self-sufficient and able to operate with a positive cash flow, it must be noted that our lease with the Ministry of Defence for the store at Gloucester is on very favourable terms which are unlikely to be repeated, and that the directors are, and will continue to be, unpaid.

The number of instruments notified as redundant so far in 1998 has reached 26 (27 in 1997) of which 15 have yet to find new homes (11 from 1997). One has been destroyed by fire. There are about 40 instruments on our current list. Nearly half of the number of organs that we have found new homes for have been exported, to Australia, France, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Slovakia, and we are also in contact with interested parties in the U.S.A., Russia and Italy. Perhaps regrettably, supply exceeds demand in this country.

The store is proving a useful asset in several ways; for organs and pipes in transit between homes, as a temporary store for organ builders and churches, and as a repository for historic parts that would otherwise be scrapped.

There are several developments in the pipeline(!). These include: raising our visibility, by advertising and by improving the maintenance and content of the Internet web pages, the building up of a rescue fund for deserving cases, and increasing the use of the store, which could provide an unique basis for the archaeological study of organs and perhaps a formal display of historic artefacts. The full exploitation of these developments will depend on us finding more permanent accommodation once our lease expires in 2001. We feel that the success of the operation to date justifies our commitment to continuing. We rely on, and are very grateful for, the support and practical help of various members of BIOS and hope that this will continue, though more help would be very welcome.

Our current main problem is lack of manpower. There appears to be enough work to occupy two people full time; though it seems unlikely that the income will ever be able to support this in terms of paid employment.

THE WILKINSON ORGAN FROM PRESTON PUBLIC HALL

A report by The Churches Conservation Trust

The organ was built by Wilkinson of Kendal for the Public Hall, Preston in 1882. In 1978 the organ was adjudged to be of historical importance at the Public Enquiry into the proposed demolition of the hall. Permission was eventually granted to the Lancashire County Council to demolish the hall in 1989 and the organ was dismantled professionally and placed in the care of the Redundant Churches Fund at All Souls Church, Haley Hill. On the instructions of The Churches Conservation Trust, successors to the Redundant Churches Fund, the organ has been professionally removed to storage at Marshall's Mill, part of the Dean Clough Mill complex in Halifax. As part of the removal process the various parts of the organ have been catalogued in considerable detail. In particular there is a detailed inventory of the pipework, showing the the extent of missing pipes and level of damage. The Trust now wishes to dispose of the organ with the intention that the organ will be properly conserved, restored in a suitable location. For the benefit of potentially interested parties the purpose of this note is to serve as an introduction to the principal features of the organ and to summarise the present state of the various main components.

The organ is a four manual instrument of 54 stops and is described in detail in *JBIOSI* (1977), p.26. The actions to the Great and Swell are Barker lever with tubular pneumatic to the Choir and Solo and tracker action to the pedal. The oak casework includes a front of 32' pipes. The organ is divided into C and C# sides with three pressures of wind for the Great and Swell. The Solo is on two pressures whilst the Choir is on a single pressure. There are 22 slider sound boards. The wind system including the individual pressure regulators are present at Halifax but two large primary reservoirs, part of the original hydraulic plant and the later electric blowing plant were not brought from Preston.

Whilst at Preston the organ suffered from some vandalism during the Second World War and was never used after 1945. The vandalism was then confined to the small pipework at the treble ends of the Great and Choir soundboards and the treble end of the pedal C# soundboard. Due to lack of maintenance the pipework of the Pedal suffered, especially the resonators of the 16' reed which by 1974 had collapsed. The increasingly damp atmospheric conditions within the Hall after 1973 caused some deterioration of the larger wooden pipes. Immediately prior to the removal of the organ in 1989, vandals damaged the mouths of the 32' front pipes but this was largely corrected by Messrs. Rogers of Bramley, the cost being covered by insurance. After transfer to All Souls, Haley Hill, the organ was again damaged by vandals breaking

into the church. Some of the larger plain metal pipe basses were flattened and a limited number was stolen.

Because of the historical importance of the organ, in 1998 the Trust awarded the contract, following competitive tenders, to Messrs. Peter Wood of Harrogate to transfer the organ to the new location, Marshall's Mill, Halifax, to lay out in a suitable way the various components of the organ, to sort out and store the pipework in racks and to prepare a detailed report and inventory. The purpose of the remainder of this note is to summarise this report. The full range of documents will be made available to any organisation or individual with a serious interest in securing the future of this important instrument.

General Structure - All the main structural elements of the organ and casework have been identified. The winding system, pressure regulators and soundboards of the organ are all present and appear to be in basically sound condition. The swell boxes for the Swell and Solo divisions are present. The Barker pneumatic lever machines for the Great and Swell are present together with the main and secondary roller boards for the



An early photograph (circa 1882) of the Wilkinson organ
in its original condition in Preston Public Hall

Photograph reproduced by courtesy of Gerald Sumner

actions to the soundboards. The pneumatic actions to the Choir and Solo organs are present but inevitably the tubing is in poor condition. The tracker actions to the Pedal soundboards are present. The console with the original keys is present together with the stop jambs and pneumatic action from 1912. As already stated, two large primary reservoirs, part of the hydraulic blowing plant, and the later electric blowing plant were not brought from Preston in 1989.

Main Façade - All the front pipes are present. This includes the majority of the pipes of Pedal 32' Open Diapason, and many of the bass pipes of the Great Organ chorus stops. The front pipes are entirely of zinc. Following damage by vandals in 1989 the larger pipe mouths were restored but the pipes remain separated at the middle joint. The upper part of one pipe, the lowest C#, is flattened. The casework is all present and is in basically sound condition.

Pedal Pipework - The wooden pipes are in mostly good condition; some of the Sub Bass pipes have splits. The larger metal pipes of the flue stops have suffered extensively and require re-making, notably the Violoncello and Superoctave which probably require complete re-making. The resonators of the 16' reed have been in poor condition for many years and require re-making. Small pipes from the uppermost octave of the Mixture have been missing for many years.

Great Organ Pipework - The lowest 14 pipes of the Double Open are case pipes in zinc and are present. The rest of the pipes are plain metal and many pipes of the next octave are flattened and may require replication. The lowest six pipes of the Open Diapason are also in the case and are present; some plain metal pipes of the next octave are bruised. The same is true of the Horn Diapason and the Gambas and a few lower pipes of the Principal. The upperwork has survived with only minor damage. The wooden pipes are present with some damage to the pipe bodies. The Trumpet is in good condition but many of the Clarion resonators are bruised.

Swell Organ Pipework - Four pipes of the lowest octave of the wooden Double Diapason are missing. Otherwise the wooden pipework is in good condition. Some of the larger pipes of the Violon Diapason are bruised and need restoration. The lower octaves of the Salicional, Celeste and Viol D'Amour are bruised and also need restoration. The upper work is all present and in good condition. The resonators of the lowest octave of the Contra Fagotto, Cornopean and Oboe are bruised but the remaining reed pipes are in good condition.

Choir Organ Pipework - Some of the wooden pipes of the Lieblich Bourdon are bruised and need repair and three small pipes are missing. The metal pipes are generally in good condition except the lowest octaves of the Dulciana and Spitzflöte which are extensively bruised and may need re-making. Seven pipes from the highest octave of the Clarinet have been missing for some years.

Solo Organ Pipework - Much of the metal pipework of the Flute Harmonique is bruised and will need extensive restoration. The lowest six resonators of the Tromba are flattened. Otherwise the pipework is in basically good condition, requiring only routine restoration.

Conclusion - It is clear from the above brief analysis that a great deal of work would be necessary to restore the organ, including extensive restoration of the pipework that is likely to involve the remaking of a significant number of pipes. However, the analysis has shown that such radical work would be confined to the basses and that the majority of the pipework above 4' has survived in a condition such that the original voicing is effectively unaltered. As a result of the recent work of relocating and examining the organ, a consensus has emerged that an authentic restoration is possible and that the organ is sufficiently important to justify such an undertaking, provided that a suitable location can be identified and negotiated.

In the identification of a possible location by a potential purchaser, due consideration must be given to the environmental history of the organ. The organ is a remarkably fine and unique example of late Victorian organ building and was, for more than a century, located in a building with only basic heating and a relatively high humidity. From 1973 to 1989 the building was effectively abandoned and unheated. The more complex wooden components, in particular the soundboards, are of traditional pine construction with pine (rather than mahogany) tables. These would be vulnerable to damage in a very dry and / or warm environment. It is likely that the most suitable environment would be a large church where the conditions of moderate temperatures and humidity would be most likely to pertain.

The organ was the largest organ built by Wilkinson of Kendal during the period of the firm's most distinguished work. Whilst the organ was conceived as a concert instrument the specification is very much as Thomas Wilkinson would have drawn up for a large church and the organ is in fact suitable for both ecclesiastical and concert use. The Churches Conservation Trust very much hopes that an organisation having a suitable building will feel able to take over responsibility for the restoration of the organ.

Synoptic specification:

61 notes CC to c, pedal 30 notes CCC to f

Great 16 8 8 8 8 4 4 22/3 2 2IV III 8 4

Swell 16 8 8 8 8 4 4 2 11/3 8 IIIIV 16 8 8 4 Tremulant

Choir 16 8 8 8 4 4 4 2 8

Solo 8 4 2 8 8 8 Tremulant

Pedal 32 16 16 8 8 4 III 16 8

Unison couplers, Swell Octave and Sub-Octave to Great, Pedal Ventil (pp), Combination thumb pistons: 6 Great, 7 Swell, 3 Choir, 4 Solo, 4 reversible pistons.

NOTES & QUERIES

Bernard Edmonds

Who said this?

1. Miss J'mima Ivin's friend's young man whispered that (the organ) had cost 'four hundred pound' which Mr. Samuel Wilkins said was 'not dear neither'.
2. Does any one in BIOS go to church to worship?
3. Some of the large churchmoaniums to be found in the cathedrals are hardly musical instruments at all, and when the liturgical movement has blown the dust from the music desks in these places it is difficult to see what function they will fulfil.

'Would it not be well if a register could be kept of remarkable old organs, and if some society or committee would make it its business to watch over their conservation? I write this in the painful recollection of the total ruin of a most interesting and valuable instrument some few years ago (1868). Under the name of a rebuilding, the organ in St. Dionis Backchurch (now pulled down), by the younger Harris - an organ mentioned by the late Sir John Sutton in his book, as distinguished for its 'grand tone' - lost half its stops, and emerged from the factory of the rebuilders an utterly commonplace instrument of the third class.'

W.E. Dickson. The College, Ely, 7th March 1887. (*Musical Opinion*, April 1887)

About the next rebuild after removal elsewhere (1881):

'While all pipework which was out of date was discarded, all that was really good was retained. In this way, the omission of worn out reeds and shrill, harsh, "harmonic corroborating" stops made room for the insertion of more useful and up-to-date colouring. It is greatly to be desired that the same spirit should be allowed to influence present day and future reconstructions of historic organs.'

C.W. Pearce, *The Organ*, Vol. VIII p.50)

BIOS has been needed for a long time! Note the definite attribution of the *Short Account* to Sir John Sutton, and of the Backchurch organ to John Harris.

Clarence Elliott, a well-known alpine gardener and plant collector in Stevenage, married Phyllis Eyre, a Wigmore Hall recitalist and Elizabeth Poston's first music teacher. In their house 'The Plash' was her chamber organ, which from a photograph looks to be of 1790 or so vintage. When the Elliotts moved away in 1946, the organ passed to Mr. Brown, organist of St. Nicholas and manager of Barclay's Bank in the town, who erected it in his home above the Bank. The Browns moved away in 1948, and the fate of the organ is not known to the family. Information as to this please, and indeed about the organ itself, either to me or to Alan Cudmore, [REDACTED].

Tallis's *London Street Views* were issued in the early decades of the 19th century. They consisted of line silhouettes of the buildings on each side of the street, some labelled with the names of their owners, probably those who had paid for the privilege. An example appears in *JBIOS 13*, p. 60, showing part of Oxford Street. Some of them contained larger advertising matter; that for Ludgate Hill has one for 'T.C. Bates, Organ and Piano-Forte Manufacturer and of Musical Instruments in general', which I quote run-on without reproducing the extravagant layout and the excited typography.

(Bates) 'Solicits the attention of the public to the following:- Double Action Harps from £42 to £60. Cabinet Piano-Fortes from £30 to £80. Cottage Piano-Fortes from £21 to £50. Particularly the Una Corda Cottage which from its peculiar construction seldom wants Tuning, a desideration in Foreign Climates, Cabin of a Ship, Schools etc. Sacred Barrel Organs for Ten Tunes (which may be chosen by the purchaser) price £15. The power and compass of these Organs are sufficient to lead the singing in Family Worship, Schools. &c; in handsome Mahogany Cases, Gilt Front, 3 feet 10 inches high, 2 feet 4 inches wide, and 13 inches deep.

Also the Seraphine or Portable Organ, the compass of which is the same as the largest Organ, from FFF to F in alt, five complete octaves, and is fully calculated for public or private devotion, being capable of producing all the effects of that noble instrument; also with a Barrel to be used in the absence of a performer. Second-Hand Piano-Fortes of every description from £5 to £50.

The Transposing Piano-Forte. Professors and Amateurs are invited to an inspection of the Transposing Piano-forte, a desideration long wished for, by those accompanying a song or glee, the construction of which is so simple, that its Key note can be altered five degrees, ascending or descending, instantly. The price differs but little from those now in use. Several small Church or Chapel Organs for Sale or hire. Letters of enquiry are requested to be post-paid No. 6, Ludgate Hill (see 6 in the Engraving).'

This is from Tallis No. 6, apparently about 1840. No. 6 was the sixth house from Bridge Street on the south side.

Reminiscing about her life-long choir membership, an elderly lady with health problems recalled that in her early days at one parish it was customary to sing 'Introits and Vespers' in the vestry before and after services, and she would like to renew acquaintance with them. Could I tell her of any publications? I was aware of such a practice though I had never encountered it; but apart from the liturgical misnomer I would think that they were quite short pieces of probably varying merit. Has anyone any suggestions as to what could be recommended to her?

A canny organ builder, removing a large organ from an abandoned church threatened by vandals, hired two of the potential vandals to guard the place overnight - and the organ was removed without injury. (BO)

At Saffron Walden in 1546 an organ was set up. Would it perhaps have been by a local builder? That there was one in 1531 is shown by the Church Accounts at Great Dunmow:

Itm spent when John ffostr. and John Clarke were at Walden to see the orgayns. vjd

Itm spent when Master Kynwellms Willm ffytshe and Robt. Cok went theder to see the organs, xviiij

Itm paid to the orgayn maker when they came home xjli. vjs. viiij.

Itm gevyn to his Suaunt in rewarde ijd. (servant)

Itm gevyn to Mastr. Kynwellins toward careying ye old organs ijd.

Itm to hym for bryngyng home the new organs iiis.iiij.

Itm paid to organe maker in full paymt. xxxiijs. iiij.

‘Mr. W.T. Best gave a series of opening recitals (on the organ at Sydney Town Hall) which are not yet forgotten, and the like of which have not been heard since, and I fear will not be again, until we have an English organist of the true organ school, instead of the light, ear-tickling style generally indulged in by our present city organist (Auguste Wiegand) whose manipulative ability is beyond question, but who unfortunately plays down to popular tastes too much, instead of raising and educating his audiences to appreciate high-class compositions.’

(Letter to the *Musical Standard* 1st May 1897, from ‘One of the Specification Committee, Sydney, N.S.W.’)

‘The realisation is now dawning that the eighteenth century organ-building tradition lived on in the work of the more conservative Victorian artist organ builders. Thus their instruments were closer in spirit to the organs of the earlier masters than are those of the modern ‘neo-baroque’ or Organ Reform movements. In fact, the past generation of organ building has been dominated by a relatively insensitive and intellectually pretentious post-war aesthetic.*

(Anon., apparently from a recital programme, early ‘eighties).

The organ at the French Protestant Church of the Savoy was a Bryceson on French lines: Grande 8 stops, Récit 6, Positif prepared, Pedal 1. In 1926 it was sold to Welwyn Free Church, and some 30 years later was restored by Mander. At Holy Trinity, Heigham, Dr. Bates of Norwich Cathedral gave an opening recital in 1921. Says a report ‘The first music to issue from the newly-completed organ were (*sic*) the majestic strains of Mat Nath Yad’. So far we have not been able to tell the enquirer what this was. Can you help?

‘On Sunday morning last died in the 78th year of his age Mr. John Goose, 65 years the Parish clerk of Swaffham and the king of all Parish clerks in his time. He was celebrated for being a good psalm smiter.’ (*Bury & Norwich Post*, 26th August 1795)

The 1854 Walker at Wethersfield sported a paper label affixed 'Brow, Essex Hill Road, Colchester, Essex. Organ, Seraphine, Piano Forte, & Aeolian Harp Manufacturer, Repairer, Adjuster, & Tuner. Paris, London, & Sudbury Suffolk'. This is reminiscent of the plate at Herringfleet, 'Rudd & Compy. No.50. Boulevard des Buttes Chaumont, Paris, and 74 Dean Street, Soho Square, London'. Although we have heard of Rudd's piano salesroom, the reason for these labels on these organs might be interesting, as would the facts about Brown's far-flung activities.

In the Will of Burkat Tschudi 'I give to Mr. John Snetzler of the Parish of St. Mary le Bone in the said County of Middlesex Organ Builder my Ring with the King of Prufsia's Picture and the sum of ten Guineas'. Where is the ring now? It was allegedly extant just before World War II.

Answers to Who said this?

1. Charles Dickens, *Sketches by Boz, Characters No 4.*
2. A frustrated organ-builder after a conference.
3. Frank Bradbeer in *Churchbuilding*, January 1965.

Tailpieces

Tickets cost £4 including wine and nibbles from the rector (*Kent Messenger*)

..... announce the birth of D.A.B., the only sin of Rev. and Mrs. J.B. (*S.Basil & All Saints Newsletter*)

Weight Watchers will meet at the Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double doors (*Bolton Evening News*)

Some aquifers have deep fishers. (*Water Industry Wet News*)

..... two men dressed as the Royal Guernsey Malicious of the 1850s. (*Group Travel Organiser*)

England, London. Visit the Barbarian Centre. (*Argentine Airline Magazine*)

He went to Alleyn's School in sarf London. (*I.o.W. County Press*)

Volunteer Minibus Drivers - you do not have to be man or woman. (*Swift Flash, Lutterworth*)

3095 pipes in place and voiced. It took B. a full month to voice each pipe. (*North Carolina newspaper*) Another late opening!

Mandatory Guidelines. (*EOC*)

My sister should arrive on the 7.45 p.m. or she might arrive by bush. (*Pembs. Weekly Telegraph*) On the branch line?

Rejoice and be gals. (*St. Mary's, Isle of Scilly*)

Please inform reception of your consummation before checking out. (*Maximilian Hotel, Prague*)



REPORTER:

Editors: Andrew Hayden, BMus, MPhil, FTCL,
[REDACTED]

John Hughes, BMus, CertEd,
[REDACTED]

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Administrator: Michael Sayer, MSc, PhD,
[REDACTED]

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Web address: <http://lehuray.csi.ac.uk/npor.html>.

NPOR Director: Michael D. Sayers, BSc, MA, DPhil,
[REDACTED]

Manager: Paul Houghton, BSc(Eng), MIEE,
[REDACTED]

Editor: David Atkinson, ARCO,
[REDACTED]

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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.