

BIOS *REPORTER*

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THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF ORGAN STUDIES

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THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF ORGAN STUDIES

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BIOS REPORTER

Opinions expressed in the BIOS Reporter are those of the respective contributors.

Editor: Dr David Shuker

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription to BIOS is £30 (£24 concessionary). Full details of membership and subscriptions can be obtained from the **Membership Secretary:**

Melanie Harrison

The cover illustration is the recently restored 1912 Hill organ at the Methodist Central Hall in London which was the focus of a BIOS study day in November 2011. See p. 21 for a meeting report.

(Photo: David Shuker)

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EDITORIAL

It has been my good fortune on a few occasions recently to come across books, music or artefacts where previous owners have left their mark in various ways. Perhaps the most striking for me personally was to discover that my copy of the 1769 edition of William Herschel's *Sei Sonate per il Cembalo* was one of the two copies that the composer retained for his own use. This copy was not signed by Herschel, something which would have probably meant that it would have long ago ended up in a museum, but the fact of its original ownership could be determined by the presence of an inked inscription 'I1' on the front page that corresponds exactly to a listing on the cover of an empty folder, still in the possession of Herschel's descendents, which is all that remains of the family's collection of music dispersed at auction in 1958. This provenance does not of course add materially to any academic study of eighteenth-century keyboard music but does still give rise to a certain *frisson* when turning the pages, knowing that within a few years of this publication Herschel would go on to discover the first new planet, Uranus, since antiquity and become personal astronomer to George III. Perhaps a more relevant example would be a copy of the first edition of *Practical Organ-Building* by W E Dickson (1881) that I found in a local bookshop last summer. It caught my eye as I already had a copy of the Positif Press reprint but that is of the 1882 second edition. When I opened the book the fly-leaf had the names of four owners and one leapt to view immediately – 'Bernard B Edmonds, MCMLXVIII'. I joined BIOS too recently to have met Bernard Edmonds but I am of course aware of his legacy in BIOS (see p. 31). In the grand tradition of BIOS research 'BBE' initialled a short note regarding the first owner – 'Col Conway-Gordon bequeathed his collection of books on the organ to the British Museum'. Lewis Conway-Gordon (1838-1895) was one of those stalwarts of the Age of Empire, having risen to be Director of Railways in India. An obituary in the *Proceedings of the Institute of Civil Engineers* notes that Col Conway-Gordon was 'an excellent mechanic and always kept up a workshop; when out of the reach of his favourite pursuits of boat-building and yachting, he took up organ-building, and built two or three organs on different principles and on original lines'. The substantial house that Col Conway-Gordon retired to near the cathedral in Rochester is now part of the King's School and I have not been able to ascertain whether he brought the organs that he built in India back with him or whether they have disappeared over time in the rather organ-unfriendly climatic conditions of the sub-continent. Of course, the paradox is that organ-builders frequently do not sign their work, particularly the further back one goes. For example, the only direct evidence that I have for the date of a chamber organ that I am currently restoring is the inked inscription 'AD 1811' and 'F&R' on the GG key lever. However useful this is, and believe me I should count myself lucky to have this information, it is unlikely that either Mr Flight or Mr Robson were themselves responsible and that this is most likely in the hand of an unknown foreman or keyboard maker. However, just as a record of owners of books can be fascinating, the successive signatures and notes of people who have worked on an organ can be even more rewarding. The rear of the pallet box of the above-mentioned chamber organ has the faint inscription 'repalleted by G Taylor, Leicester 1921'. Geoffrey Taylor was one of the grandsons of Stephen Taylor who founded the Leicester-based firm of organ-builders. In an age of social networking that leads to vast amounts of information and images of millions of people and events being available at the touch of a QWERTY keyboard it is sometimes difficult to keep in mind how little

information survives about people and their activities from a hundred or more years ago. It would be satisfying to think that the passage of time is a selective filter and information that survives does so because it has some intrinsic importance. Sadly, experience tells us otherwise and all too often it can be easy to find a wealth of data on a minor historical event or character and next to nothing on something or somebody really important. As one eminent organ-builder noted recently 'what everybody once knew, nobody knows now' referring to the fact that some important bits of information were not recorded because they were simply widely known at the time. So does our information-rich age mean that future historians and archaeologists will be spoilt for choice? Perhaps, although I rather fancy that they will spend their lives digging through the midden-heaps of *Facebook* and *Twitter* in the vain hope of finding some pearl of wisdom, only to be distracted by efforts to decode the ritual significance of 'LOL' and ';-)'.

FROM THE SECRETARY

MELVIN HUGHES

2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London SW1H 9NH the setting for the Day Conference on 19 November 2011, was also the venue for the 2011 Annual General Meeting. The Officers' Reports are reproduced in this issue.

During the course of the Meeting it was noted that the necessity of holding the Conference and AGM on this particular date, brought about by the limited availability of Central Hall during the month, had meant an unfortunate clash with activities arranged that day by other organ based organisations.

Elections

Officers and Council were elected in accordance with the Constitution.

The following Officers were elected:

Chairman: Alan Thurlow

Meetings Officer: Melvin Hughes

Publications Officer: Katharine Pardee

Barrie Clark, David Knight and Mark Venning were elected as Ordinary Members of Council.

Honorary Life Membership

A proposal that Dr Michael Sayers be awarded Honorary Life Membership was brought forward from Council and presented as a proposal to the Meeting. This was unanimously approved.

Chairman

Once the new Chairman had been elected, John Norman handed Chairmanship of the Meeting to Alan Thurlow, who thanked the outgoing Chairman for all his work during the last 5 years. José Hopkins, on behalf of BIOS, presented John with a framed, digital reproduction of a sketch of a case for the Norman & Beard organ in Jesus College, Cambridge, possibly by Bodley (who was responsible for the casework and gallery), taken from the Rattee & Kett archive in Cambridgeshire County Archives (see rear cover).

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010-2011

Starting on a sombre note, I begin by remembering the names of members whom died during the year - T E Baker of Church Stretton, Shropshire, Dr Frank A. McFarlane of London N16, Eric Impey of Cambridge, Leslie Mathews of Nawton, York, and the former NPOR volunteer editor, Philip Rogers of Sandy, Bedfordshire.

It is good to look back on the five years that you have put up with me as Chairman. One of the most impressive things about BIOS is the enormous amount of work being undertaken by so very many willing volunteers. Over the five years, I have been fortunate in receiving exceptional support from the members of BIOS Council. This support has enabled BIOS to make significant progress on a number of fronts.

Firstly, despite the sad loss of the deceased members already mentioned, and despite the difficult economic times in which we live, BIOS has maintained an almost constant membership total. This is the result of Melanie Harrison's sterling work as Membership Officer, adding nearly twenty new members a year to offset inevitable losses. As part of this, she has also handled our advertising publicity.

During my chairmanship, Richard Hird handed over to Adrian Mumford as Treasurer. I couple our gratitude to Richard for all his hard work over twenty-five years, with a thanks to Adrian for picking up the mantle, and for the clarity of his advice to BIOS Council.

Andrew Hayden has been ever-active in handling cases where advice from BIOS is helping to prevent the destruction of our organ heritage. Sometimes we are successful, sometimes not, but at least we can feel that BIOS has made a difference.

In the publishing area, we are all grateful to David Ponsford as Chair of the Publications Committee for the continued success of the BIOS Journal. David's professional career has now progressed to the point that he is having to give up the Chair for lack of time. The 35th edition is due to be published shortly and will be posted to members when ready. We are also assured that the publication of the updated index is nigh. Finally we issue a welcome to Katie Pardee for assuming David's responsibilities. I am sure that the Journal will continue to enhance its reputation under her guidance.

The wonderful facsimile edition of the Leffler manuscript of c.1800 has achieved significant sales. Only 200 were printed and it has now covered its cost to BIOS. Nevertheless, José Hopkins still has some copies left.

We must all be grateful for David Shuker's editing and production skills in producing the BIOS Reporter. The tedium of the three-hour delay to your chairman's return from the Durham Conference by the East Coast railway was only relieved by the pleasure of reading the last issue of the Reporter from cover to cover.

Back in 2007, we were privileged to hear Edwin Lemare playing his own transcription of Saint-Saens 'Danse Macabre', courtesy of the 'Philharmonic' player-roll mechanism of the restored Welte organ at Salomons. I must mention the memorable conference based on the organ in St Botolph, Aldgate in London with its historic pipework and Renatus Harris case. However, if I were to go over the details of all the BIOS conferences of the last five years, you would be listening to me the entire afternoon. Stafford, Leicester, Bremhill, Durham, Portsmouth, to name but a few.

But we must not forget the annual Bernard Edmonds Research conferences at Birmingham. They continue to give air to a wide range of research topics, organised by Melvin Hughes with behind-the-scenes professional scrutiny by our President, Peter Williams. In addition, a major highlight of my tenure as Chairman has been the series of Oxford residential conferences organised by Katie Pardee and Melvin Hughes. The coverage of these four conferences, from Tudor beginnings to twentieth-century developments, was as impressive as the high standard of the material presented. Finally, today we are privileged to have access to Westminster Central Hall. Here we have heard not only the Harrison restoration of one of Dr Arthur Hill's last organs but also many details of the restoration work from its consultants and restorer.

Early on in my chairmanship we had a productive meeting with English Heritage and the DCMS (the Department of Culture, Media and Sport), and a follow-up meeting with English Heritage the next year. We did not achieve all we sought but we did receive encouragement to press ahead with the Historic Organ Certificate Scheme (HOCS) and to expand it as rapidly as we can; the objective being that all significant historic instruments should be included. We are immensely grateful to Paul Joslin and to David Knight and to all the members of the HOCS committee for pushing ahead with this valuable work. The increased coverage is now giving real credibility to the whole scheme. As a result, grant-giving bodies are now taking notice of certificate listings. This has raised the profile of BIOS very considerably.

One of the achievements of the last five years has been the transfer of the NPOR to the computers of the Royal College of Music. In that time the usage of this popular facility has almost doubled to over one and

a half thousand file searches every day. These facts continue to amaze outsiders. One of the biggest justifications for BIOS's charitable status must be this widely-used free public service. The Historic Organ Sound Archive (HOSA) project has been a useful component of the NPOR's success. The groundwork that has already been laid down will be a useful template for the future. As ever, BIOS is very grateful to Mike Sayers and to the NPOR volunteer editors. As the accuracy of the database improves so the NPOR's reputation improves with it. We now need to work on its visual appearance and usability. Discussions are in hand with the Royal College of Music and with Birmingham City University on its enhancement and future management.

BIOS's own website, founded by Richard Hird, has been reworked to make it more friendly and easier to use. It contains a wealth of information on not only all the many activities of BIOS but also useful guidance on potential grant sources for the repair of historic organs as well as detailed guidance on organ care and conservation. The revised website, designed by Doug Levey, is live from today. Further enhancements are in plan.

Members continue to make active and growing use of the British Organ Archive. This has moved from Birmingham Central Library (now about to be pulled down) to the Cadbury Research Library at Birmingham University, thanks initially to support from Professor Michael Clarke and latterly from Sue Worrall, Head of Special Collections at the University. Our special thanks must, however, go to Chris Kearn, our volunteer archivist. He superintended the physical transfer to the University premises and has established excellent relations with the University staff. The number of enquiries has risen steadily to

about six a week. The excellent reading room facilities at Birmingham have attracted people to come to visit the BOA in person.

Finally, I must thank Melvin for all his work as Secretary. He continues to keep the Chairman in order – a very necessary task.

A common thread runs through all these activities - the aims of BIOS. In shortened form they could be expressed as three words: Research, Conservation and Preservation. These should be our watch-words, now and in the future.

It has been a wonderful five years and a privilege to be Chairman. It does seem now to be widely accepted that BIOS is effectively the amenity society for organs, comparable with other bodies in the heritage world. We are so glad that Alan Thurlow has agreed to take up the Chairmanship. I do wish him the very best of good fortune. BIOS is in good heart, and now it will be in good hands as well.

*John Norman
November 2011*

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2010-2011

Council met three times during the year under review, once at The Diocesan Office, The Diocese in Europe (Church of England), 14 Tufton Street, London, SW1P 3QZ and twice at the Crown Court Church of Scotland, WC2. The HOCS Committee met on three occasions, once prior to each Council meeting.

*Melvin Hughes
November 2011*

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT 2010-2011

Statistics

The membership figures on 9th October 2011, with some figures from 2005 to 2009 shown for comparison are shown in the Table below.

The drop since 2005 shows we need always to recruit whenever we find an opportunity, but numbers are slightly up on the figure in last year's report. We have not yet

	Jan 05	Sept 07	Oct 09	Oct 11
Ordinary members(excluding concessionary rate payers)	524	468	458	453
Ordinary members (concessionary rate due to retirement)	140	146	151	155
Ordinary members (concessionary rate as students)	6	1	5	6
Ordinary members (concessionary rate as unemployed)	1	3	2	0
Honorary members	8	8	9	8
Institutional members	16	16	16	15
TOTALS	695	642	641	636

achieved the objective of on-line membership applications but progress has been made. A new lower cost membership rate for students has been introduced but has not yet begun to increase our numbers, though this is an area where members who teach have a contribution to make.

The membership database is under continual revision and a new edition of the list was published in October 2011. It seems inevitable that some changes in contact details have not been notified but even though it is probably two years before a new edition appears, it is important details are advised as each posted publication results in some "gone away" returns and extra cost to re-send materials to eventually notified addresses.

Keeping costs down in this and other ways, such as increased use of email, is one way BIOS is able to maintain subscription costs at the level they have been since 2006. Subscription renewal notices have been sent by email for some years and it is important that members accept messages from the BIOS-Membership email address with the PDF attachments and respond promptly. Those using on-line banking can easily maintain standing orders and make direct transfer payments as an alternative to posting cheques.

BIOS advertises in the *Organists' Review*, *Choir & Organ* and *The London Organ Concerts Guide* and they appear to generate a steady number of new membership applications. During 2011, adverts have evolved to reflect the ideas Council has been working on to move towards a fresher look to all our resources and 2012 will see further changes in our marketing materials.

Melanie Harrison
October 2011

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER REPORT 2010-2011

JOURNAL

In 2005, when I chaired a committee to review BIOS publications, it was decided that a *Journal* of 192 pages was the optimum length for financial reasons. The last four issues have been larger than this, a sign of the healthy spirit of research that pervades BIOS. Volume 34, edited by Dr Katharine Pardee, is the first of a series of four *Journals* to incorporate some of the rich vein of research presented at the four Oxford conferences held between 2007-2010. Vol. 34 extended the scope of *Journal* articles, reflecting some important research into areas of organ history that have been under-explored until now. I would like to thank Dr Pardee sincerely both for the initiatives she has undertaken and for her editorship of this important *Journal*.

Vol. 35, the second volume 'post-Oxford' and edited by Dr Pardee and myself, has now gone to press, and will be distributed at the end of November. However, as in the previous *Journal*, the articles do not come exclusively from the Oxford conferences and neither are they chronologically specific. This has enabled some recent and valuable research by BIOS members to be included.

As per normal practice, the submission dates for the following *Journals* are as follows:

Vol. 36 (2012): 31 December 2011

Vol. 37 (2013): 31 December 2012

Vol. 38 (2014): 31 December 2013

INDEX

The publication of the Index has been delayed for reasons too complicated to explain, but I have been informed that it will

be distributed at the same time as the latest *Journal* in November.

REPORTER

The Reporter is in very good hands under the expert guidance and control of Professor David Shuker, and I would like to express my thanks to him on behalf of BIOS. May I continue to encourage members to contribute frequently to the *Reporter* on relevant matters, and even take part in debates. Whilst the editors of the *Journal* and *Reporter* make every effort to attend conferences and keep abreast of the plethora of publications and events, they rely very heavily on suggestions from individual members and their contacts for sources of potential articles, and continue to welcome all ideas and suggestions.

LEFFLER MANUSCRIPT FACSIMILE EDITION

There are still some 70 copies of the Leffler for sale. Not only is it the most valuable source of information about English organs c. 1800, but the facsimile edition itself is beautifully produced at a really very economic price. Members are encouraged to purchase these while stocks last (£48 + £4.50 p. & p.). This publication enables anyone interested in Britain's national heritage to own a piece of prime organological evidence.

With the publication of the Leffler MS facsimile, the development of the Reporter and the Journal, the forthcoming publication of the Index and the new initiatives that are being discussed to mark the 40th anniversary in 2015, BIOS publications is entering a new phase. In June, Council agreed to my suggestion to inaugurate a 'Publications Team' consisting of those who have been most active in this area: Dr Katharine Pardee, Dr David Knight and Dr David Shuker as well as myself as

Publications Officer. This makes good sense, not only to enable the (voluntary) work to be evenly distributed, but to help with inevitable issues to do with succession. However, with the increase in my own professional (freelance) work over the past few years, I no longer have the necessary time that any Publication Officer needs in order to fulfil the managerial and administrative responsibilities adequately. Therefore, whilst I will be happy to be involved in publications (if requested), I feel it is right to relinquish the post of Publications Officer at this time. May I extend grateful thanks to editors of the *Journal* since 2006: William McVicker, David Hemsley, David Knight, Christopher Berry and Katharine Pardee, and to all those authors who have contributed their valuable articles. All the work by editors and contributors is, of course, entirely voluntary, so I feel that the development of BIOS publications over the past five years is a cause for celebration.

*Dr David Ponsford
November 2011*

MEETINGS OFFICER REPORT 2010-2011

This report covers the year from 1 September 2010 to 31 August 2011.

During the year in question Day Meetings were held at De Montfort Hall/St Peter, Highfields, Leicester; St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, London EC2; the Barber Institute, Birmingham (see below). There was also a Residential Conference at Durham (jointly with Diocesan Organ Advisers).

The number of delegates for each Conference is shown in brackets.

David Knight and Katie Pardee have continued to provide general advice and

support – I remain immensely indebted to both of them.

A list of speakers who have addressed the Conferences and Organists who have played for us in the past year is set out below:

SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER 2010 -
DE MONTFORT HALL & ST PETER,
HIGHFIELDS, LEICESTER
'THE LEGACY OF PROVINCIAL ORGAN-
BUILDING IN THE EAST MIDLANDS'
[30]

De Montfort Hall organ (Taylor, 1913) -
Visit
St Peter Highfields
Introduction to St Peter Highfields -
Christopher Gray
'The St Peter's Organ' (Taylor 1910) -
Christopher Gray
'A Singular Place' - 18th and 19th century
Leicester organists - *David Shuker*
Stephen Taylor and Sons - their history and
techniques - *Richard Young*
Organs, personalities and festivals in 18th
and early-19th century Leicestershire -
Martin Renshaw
Organ-building in Leicestershire in 20th
century and beyond - *Peter Collins*
Recital - *Peter Harris* (St Mary's Parish
Church, Hinckley)

SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2010 -
ST MARY-LE-BOW, CHEAPSIDE,
LONDON EC2V 6AU
'THE NEW ORGAN PROJECT AND
POST WAR ORGAN BUILDING
IN THE CITY (NEW ORGANS)' [55]
The history of the new organ project -
John Norman
The construction and making of the new
organ - *Kenneth Tickell*
New Organ building in the City in the last
50 years - *David Knight*
Manuscript and printed editions for John

Stanley outside the 30 published Voluntaries
(with organ illustrations) - *John Collins*
AGM
Organ Recital - *Alan Wilson* (St Mary-le-
Bow)

SATURDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2010 - BARBER
INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMING-
HAM
BERNARD EDMONDS RECENT RE-
SEARCH CONFERENCE [43]
Organ Culture in England at the Start of
the Reformation Period - *Martin Renshaw*
Heinrich Scheidemann's Magnificat Settings
- *Karin Nelson*
The Bridge-Byfield-Jordan-Harris Partner-
ships of the early 18th Century -
Dominic Gwynn
Update on the British Organ Archive
(BOA) - *Chris Kearl*
Visit to Cadbury Research Library
(Muirhead Tower): Home of the British
Organ Archive (BOA) - *Sue Worrall*
University of Birmingham: New Concert
Organ in the new Music Building -
John Whenham
Henry Jones of Folkestone: The Overlooked
Organ-Builder - *Chris Kearl*
The Canterbury Cathedral Organ of 1886 -
Some Aspects of its Purchase and
Construction - *David Hemsley*
A One-Off Organ (1883) in the RC Church
at Houghton Le Spring - *Richard Hird*
Samuel Barber and the Organ - *Iain Quinn*
French Organ Music in the Reign of Louis
XIV - *David Ponsford*

TUESDAY 30 AUGUST TO FRIDAY 2
SEPTEMBER 2011
JOINT ORGAN ADVISERS & BIOS
DURHAM CONFERENCE 2011
RESIDENTIAL AT ST. CHAD'S COLLEGE,
DURHAM [50]

Tuesday 30 August
Introduction to Durham Diocese - *Roger*

Norris (Durham DAC)
Organs of the Diocese" - *Richard Hird*
(Durham DOA)
Church Building Council Update -
Dr David Knight (CBC)
Closed Churches and their contents -
Dr Jeffrey West (CBC)
Conference Dinner - Speaker: *The Dean of*
Durham

Wednesday 31 August

Visits to Ferryhill (c1870 Brindley, trans-
planted H&H 1994, and, Whitworth (1886
H&H, restored 2011) included Talk on T H
Harrison - *Richard Hird*
Eucharist with Hymns - *Revd Lynda Gough*;
Visits to Brancepeth (c1870 Willis, trans-
planted H&H 2005]) included demonstra-
tion by James Lancelot and Talks on The
Church Restoration - *Chris Downs* and The
Organ's History - *Richard Hird*, and, West
Auckland [1862 Postill Great + c.1910
Nelson Swell; rebuilt PPO 2009) included
demonstration by *Paul Hale* and Talks on
History and Restoration of Organ by
Geoffrey Coffin & Paul Hale
Changing role of Organs Advisers -
Roy Massey and Panel discussion.
Durham Cathedral Recital - *James Lancelot*.

Thursday 1 September

Visit to Harrison & Harrisons' Workshop
Visits to St Hilda, South Shields (1865
T.C.Lewis, restored H&H with HL Funding
2004), included demonstration by *Roy*
Massey and Talk on T C Lewis by
Christopher Gray, and, St Helen, Low Fell
(1875 Willis, electrified Vincent 1949)
included demonstration by *Keith Downie* and
'What to Do' Panel exercise
The Organ Sonata in Britain, from
Mendelssohn to Jackson - *Paul Hale*

Friday 2 September

Durham Cathedral Music c1600 - *Dr Brian*
Crosby

John Donaldson, Organ-BUILDER, of Newcas-
tle and York - *Dr Roz Southey*
Precedents and resources in compiling a
hymn book" - *Dr Martin Clarke*

Melvin Hughes
September 2011

INFORMATION SERVICES: BOA/NPOR

British Organ Archive

After long-hours of background planning
and many hold-ups along the way, the
British Organ Archive (BOA) was eventually
removed from Birmingham Central Library
just before Christmas 2010 to its new
home in the newly-completed Cadbury
Research Library (CRL) at the University of
Birmingham. The move actually went quite
smoothly, largely due to the amount of
pre-planning that I had undertaken with
Phillipa Bassett from the University's Special
Collections. The sheer size of the BOA
collection presents its own logistical
problems and meant that we had to engage
the Harrow Green specialist archive
removal company to undertake the move -
it was an exhausting 11 hour day but it is
such a relief to have finally achieved it.

Since that time I have continued to give one
day a week to the BOA itself and have
received an enthusiastic and caring
welcome from the CRL staff who have
gone out of their way to accommodate my
disability problems even to providing me
with an "ergo-something?" chair fully
adjustable to my posture needs.

The space that we have been allocated
within the CRL vaults is now nearly full and
any new additions to the BOA will have to
be very carefully vetted and discussed
before accepting new accessions. However
we have reserved a little space for new

additions of Primary Source items [collections of work-books etc.] which we know are "out there" and which we hope one day will come under the wing of BIOS.

In February at the Bernard Edmonds Research Day held in the Barber Institute on the University campus, delegates were given the opportunity to view the new premises and to see some of the items in the BOA - they seemed very favourably impressed and thankfully took notice of my plea to "touch nothing"!

As the year has progressed, use of the BOA has steadily increased and enquiries are still coming in on a regular basis. We are concentrating at the moment on getting as much of the collection as possible indexed and listed, a long and painstaking task. The BOA Handlist is also in the process of revision and will be available soon as a download from the BIOS website as a link. At present I am working my way steadily through the Willis and Lewis Order and Account Books to add this vast pool of information to the BOA database. One new addition to the BOA collection has been all that remains of the organ-builders Noterman & Co's paper-work which was donated by Mr Pawlyn - this consists of a small collection of estimates, quotes on new organs, plans for rebuilds and a few account books dating from around 1900 to the 1970's. There is some interesting material there and I have begun the long task of itemising it all and gradually packing it away into acid-free envelopes into a safe environment. One other imminent project is the provision of all of Andrew Freeman photographs onto the Special Collections website to enable people to view each image as a "thumbnail" with the ability to order a copy directly from the CRL. David Wickens is still willingly undertaking the onerous task of adding all the new entries to the vast BOA database and his

encouragement and advice remains very important to me and to BIOS.

In short, at the moment all is well - the BOA is safe, it is gradually being opened-up to make more material available for research and it is being well used both for visits and through external enquiries. And if BIOS is content with my work, I am happy to continue in this role as care-taker of this unique and very special collection!

*Chris Kearl. (BIOS Archivist)
November 2011*

National Pipe Organ Register (NPOR)

The sad loss of one of our editors, Philip Rogers, last December, has been reported elsewhere. Phil's dry humour and attention to detail, as well as his tireless work for the NPOR is still much missed.

Our small team of editors have continued to work valiantly on the many updates and new surveys that have been sent to us. We are very pleased to report that we have one new 'trainee' editor is now learning the ropes. However, the editing backlog is currently around 12 months, so we are grateful for the continued patience of our many contributors as we work through this.

*Nicholas Watkins and Frances Pond
November 2011*

CASEWORK OFFICER'S REPORT YEAR ENDING 11/2011

This year has seen developments which continue to emphasise the role of BIOS in supporting the cause of the British organ. Below is an overview of some notable cases this past year, including the saving of the little Johannes Lincoln organ of 1789 from

Quay Street Baptist Church, Woodbridge, Suffolk, and two organs by Samuel Renn from Bollington (1836), and Biddulph Moor (1837), both in Staffordshire.

Quay Street Baptist Church, Woodbridge D06912

After some uncertainty as to its future including fears it would be exported, this organ was acquired by BIOS member, Gregory Frostick, with a view to it forming the central element of a locally based trust. The intention is to restore it and make it available for study and performance of 18th century English organ music for which it is ideally suited. The organ is to be moved from its present location by Peter Bumstead and, in the event a new home cannot be found immediately, it will be stored.

We are most grateful to both Quay Street Baptist Church for the commendably responsible attitude they took regarding the disposal of the organ, and to Gregory Frostick for stepping up to the mark in acquiring it. We look forward to further developments with interest.

St John the Baptist, Bollington N02114

The organ which was thoroughly documented by David Shuker, was notified as in urgent need of rehousing following the sale of the church to a developer just before Christmas 2010. It is substantially Samuel Renn, with some reconstruction in 1909 by Nicholson & Lord. It is of considerable historic interest and importance, and served as a reference for work done at Great Budworth (Dr. J. Berrow 1998, 2002; Dominic Gwynn, 2002).

Fortunately, at very short notice, the organ was removed and is being stored by Andrew Fearn prior to restoration and re-

erection in St George's, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire.

Christ Church, Biddulph Moor P00637

Following research by David Shuker, it has been found that this is probably the Samuel Renn organ built for St Laurence's, Chorley. An article by Dr Shuker appeared in the BIOS Column in *Organists' Review*. Interestingly, the organ was mentioned only in passing by Michael Sayer in his book about Samuel Renn so that, following its removal from Christ Church, there is the very real prospect of the organ's restoration to look forward to. As such, it would be a significant addition to the meagre canon of verified Renn instruments still surviving.

St Peter & St Paul, Over Stowey, Somerset N12313

This case, while perhaps not as significant as some, gave pause for thought and drew attention to other examples which give reason for concern.

BIOS received a complaint regarding proposals to remove the organ, a small Bryceson of 1868, in favour of an electronic. The Bryceson was regarded as inadequate by the organist who complained that it was incapable of playing repertoire by 'Bach and later composers'.

Various circumstances surrounding the proposal, namely that the existing instrument was in good working order, in a church in use twice a month not including funerals and weddings, and serving a village of some 400 inhabitants, suggested a considerable imbalance between the real needs of the parish and the demands being made by the organist.

Signs are that organists can apparently command the outlay of considerable sums of

money for electronic organs despite existing instruments being in good condition, good examples of their builders' work and with specifications adequate for what is required. The practise looks to be on the increase with PCC's willing to acquiesce without considering the long-term consequences in an atmosphere where 'utility' is the only criterion. Why this should be is difficult to comprehend particularly when the Country is being asked to tighten its belt in a period of economic uncertainty.

Noticeable too are indications that digital organs (and other electronic instruments such as pianos) are becoming the benchmark against which the real instrument is measured. Imperfections inherent in 'the real thing' are regarded as a nuisance and a sign of inferiority because the digital copy has had them removed. People are becoming used to a digitally sanitised version of the original – a sign perhaps of an increasing digital monoculture and one which can only be deprecated.

The practise is not confined to the Church of England since BIOS was notified of a similar instance at Ayr Roman Catholic cathedral (readers should note that the NPOR reference for Ayr RC Cathedral relates to the former (1960's) building which shut about ten years ago because of structural problems. The present St. Margaret's church was then elevated to cathedral status; there is no NPOR record for this building). The organ was a fine instrument of 1900 by Hardy & Sons of Stockport, which had been thoroughly overhauled about ten years ago by Paul Miller, the ex-Hill, Norman & Beard Scottish representative. It was reported that "the new organist didn't like it" and so the organ was removed in favour of an electronic; this in an area with a rich heritage of fine instruments by Harrison & Harrison and T.C. Lewis in neighbouring Ayrshire RC

churches. As matters stand, it would be difficult to take their future preservation for granted.

St Michael's Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent N07623

BIOS continues to develop its profile as an organisation able to provide reasoned arguments against misplaced organ schemes. St Michael's, Abertillery is an example of such involvement following an approach by Monmouth diocese requesting advice on proposals. BIOS visited the church and following considerable deliberation, a report was submitted to the Chancellor. We understand that the petition for a faculty to replace the existing Vowles organ with the Walker instrument from Eleventh Church, Christ Scientist, Marylebone, using amateur resources and manpower, has been withdrawn.

All Saints, Denstone, Staffs. K00726

This is a church of outstanding merit, listed Grade II*, and the work of G.E. Street. It contains one of very few surviving, untouched instruments, if not the only one, by Nicholson & Son of Walsall, built in 1868, in a case by Street (the case, though regrettably not the body, of the instrument is listed in English Heritage's schedule). The parish wanted to remove the organ while retaining the casefront and had installed an electronic organ because the organist was apparently unable to cope with the Nicholson. A watching brief is being maintained and it has been made plain in informal discussions that the organ must be preserved in its entirety in the building as an instrument of great value.

Chapel of the Royal Marines, Chivenor

We were notified of this instrument by the commanding officer of the barracks enquiring about means of disposal. Nigel Browne visited and reported back that it was a house organ by Hill built 1883 in a

sumptuous mahogany case and virtually unaltered. The organ is in urgent need of rehousing and though it is not BIOS policy to act as a clearing house, this instrument is a most deserving case and we would welcome enquiries. Further details may be had from Andrew Hayden, Casework Officer.

St Nicholas of Myra, Worth Matravers, Wiltshire. N10170

Finally, to end on a positive note, an enquiry was received about this organ which is a very small 3 mp (seven stops with just a Dulciana on the Choir) by Foskett, built in 1922 for the Victoria College of Music. It was overhauled by Gray & Davison in 1958 and reerected in Worth Matravers church and an article about it by J R Roberts appeared in Musical Opinion, December 1959. This time, the intention is to restore it and at the time of writing, it is understood an Historic Organs Certificate is being applied for.

*Andrew Hayden
26 October 2011*

HISTORIC ORGAN CERTIFICATE SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Committee Meetings - January/May-
June/September

Dr David Knight (Chair)
John Norman (Ex-officio)++
Graham Jones (2008) +
Richard Hird (2009)
Nicholas Plumley (2010)
Alan Buchan (2011)
Paul Joslin (Co-ordinator)
(+Graham Jones retires from the committee this year - remaining an inspector)
(++ John Norman retires as Chairman of

BIOS)

Council listed one hundred and five organs on the recommendation of the HOCS sub-committee between January and September 2011. Although this is a slight reduction in numbers from 2010, the historical diversity and significance have proved to be just as important.

This year, organs spanning four centuries c1630 (Blair Castle - Scotland) to 1971 (St Mark's Portsmouth) have been accredited – an all-time record.

'Finds' have included a Willis house organ (altered) made for The Duke of Wellington at Apsley House London, (Whitchurch Methodist Aylesbury), the altered Hill organ originally made for the nave of York Minster, (St Thomas and St John, Radcliffe), an unusually fine Casson organ made for a St Georges Hotel Llandudno (Bethania Presbyterian Eglwysbach North Wales) and a list of untouched 'Rolls-Royce' Harrison & Harrison organs in the Diocese of Durham.

Quality village organs continue to impress. One single manual Hill organ of 1863 (St Andrew Northwold Norfolk), complete with mixture in original condition was awarded a Grade I certificate, as was a divided Forster & Andrews, (Chesham URC) their first with tubular-pneumatic action. A rarity by Fincham 1868 (St Peter Slinfold) also gained the same grade. The HOCS committee have continued to specifically look at the organs in Scotland and the Methodist Church in England. This has been particularly rewarding. In Scotland the work of Bruce has been predominant. Some instruments retain hand blowing as the only method of raising the wind. The Methodist organs have included the 1761 Snetzler (Bristol New Room) and a Willis 1863/1890 (Hallam).

On an administrative point, a good application portfolio is essential. Some applicants approach this diligently with academic rigour; many do not, in some instances surprisingly so.

This scheme could not operate without the unstinting efforts and time of a dedicated team of inspectors and committee members for which thanks are due.

Sadly the award of a certificate, even the highest grade, does not always ensure the long-term future of the instrument. Increasingly organs are under threat.

There is still much to do, particularly in the area of protection of this important area of our heritage.

*Paul Joslin (Hon Coordinator - Historic Organ Certificate Scheme)
November 2011*

BIOS HERITAGE ADVISER ANNUAL REPORT 2010- 2011

Between February and April of 2011 the Heritage Lottery Fund held a consultation on their funding methods and through a series of questions asked for guidance and opinions on how it might direct future policy. BIOS took part and a summary of the sections is below.

Section 1 - Our strategic framework and how we work

Our strategic framework
Balance and direction of funding
How we work
Spread of funding
Support for the changing needs of the UK's heritage
Building a more resilient heritage community
Encouraging a culture of giving

Section 2 - Our current grant Section programme

Targeted programmes
Young roots
Landscape partnerships
Parks for people
Places of worship
Support for local places and communities

Section 3 - Additional Opportunities and Challenges

Challenges of climate change
Digital heritage
Skills
Heritage in private ownership
Buying heritage items
Overall

As one would expect the questions are very general and difficult for BIOS to give meaningful answers. Where possible I tried to slant some of them in at least a general direction useful to our cause. I stressed the often raised point that to encourage small applicants the supporting paperwork should be simplified as far as possible. I highlight below four questions where a BIOS response came closer to expressing our aims and hopes. I am far from convinced that my participation will have been effective but our mark has been made again in the public domain.

Q12a

As a Lottery funder, to what extent do you agree or disagree that we should seek to extend our role to build the financial sustainability of voluntary organisations with initiatives to support organisational development?

A. *Strongly agree.*

Q12b

Why do you say that?

A. *This would encourage BIOS to apply for grants to complete and fund the National Pipe Organ Register (specifically encouraged by John Newman in his Review for DCMS of the Ecclesiastical Exemption from Listed Building Control, 1997).*

Q25 (open)

What are your thoughts on our proposals for supporting places of worship? How could they be improved?

A *Strong support for this and a larger proportion of grant funding as costs rise and congregations shrink. Fixtures and fitting to be given due importance. This is all the more relevant since Government funding for historic pipe organs in the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme is being withdrawn. The need to continue to rely on expert external advisers to assess the project work, someone really independent and with a broad overview.*

Q 29c

What skills should be priorities for our support in a future initiative, and why?

A. *Invest in the declining craft industry (in the way that it has invested in the decline of dry-stone walling). The craft of organ building urgently needs to invest in an apprentice project to ensure the survival of this very specialised field. For instance would it be possible for the Institute of British Organ Building to set up a framework in which the Lottery could apply its funding criteria in respect of the training of apprentices or investing in other areas of the craft?*

Q 32a

Overall what do you think HLF has done particularly well?

A. *HLF has filled a unique role in funding historic organ restoration and BIOS would like*

to see this continue, particularly now that Places of Worship Grants has withdrawn this aspect of its remit.

While the future of the Heritage Protection Bill remains uncertain, there has not been much contact recently with HM Government and activity on this matter is in abeyance. A request for a meeting with the Secretary of State has not been successful. No doubt if and when a Bill on this subject is again tabled it will be worded differently and will have to be scrutinized again carefully. BIOS needs to identify potential support among MPs and the Lords in the current Parliament.

However, although secular legislation remains urgent, currently most problems concerning organs seem to be with churches rather than secular institutions. Diocesan Chancellors frequently rely on civil law for general interpretation. It might be necessary to shift our emphasis to raising concern about the working of the Ecclesiastical Exemption.

Now is perhaps the time for BIOS to again focus on our requirements for grants for projects such as completion of the National Pipe Organ Register, the funding of the British Organ Archive and the completion of the backlog within the Historic Organ Certificate Scheme.

*Barrie Clark
September 2011*

The British Institute of Organ Studies Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2011

The British Institute of Organ Studies (Registered Charity number 283936) exists to advance the education of the public in and promote the study of and research into the development of the organ and its music in all aspects and, in particular, the development of the organ and its music in Britain and to publish the useful results of any research. Also, to promote the preservation and restoration of historic organs in Britain for the benefit of the public generally.

Council

During the year the following served on the Council:

John Norman (Chairman)	Andrew Hayden	Nigel Stark
Melvin Hughes (Secretary)	David Knight	David Shuker
Adrian Mumford (Treasurer)	Colin Menzies	Alan Thurlow
Barrie Clark	Katharine Pardee	Nicholas Watkins
Melanie Harrison	David Ponsford	

The Council met three times during the year.

Independent Examiner: Michael Black

Bankers

CAF Bank (Charities' Aid Foundation), Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent
Nat West Bank, Durham

It is our policy to invest surplus funds in to our 'higher-earning' Standard Life account.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have reviewed the charity's need for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission: they believe that it is prudent for the minimum level to be the equivalent of a 3-year moving average of annual subscription income. Additional designated reserves may be held from time to time when significant future events are anticipated.

Financial Review of the Year

Unrestricted income was unusually large as Gift Aid for 2006 to 2009, not previously accrued, was received; the £13,604 total includes £2,374 receivable for the year under review. Conference turnover was very much lower in the year although returned a small surplus overall. Expenditure was close to budget with mostly only small changes from 2009/10. However, as the Restricted Fund for the Archive has been exhausted, costs now fall to Unrestricted Funds (including £2,590 in 2011 for relocation). 'Below the line' is the customary £1,000 transfer to the Endowment Fund and one-off correction to figures provided for the 2009/10 accounts (usefully, boosting unrestricted reserves) – see note 7.

There is little activity in restricted funds, the key source of income being sales of the Leffler manuscript (in the HOSA Fund) and costs associated with the British Organ Archive.

Closing Unrestricted Funds grew to £52,019 (very amply meeting the Reserve Policy) and total Restricted Funds (of which the Endowment Fund is by far the largest) totalled £35,524.

Independent Examiner's Report to members of the British Institute of Organ Studies.

I am giving my report on the accounts of the British Institute of Organ Studies (BIOS) for the year ended **30 June 2011** which are set out on the following two pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The BIOS Council are responsible for ensuring the preparation of the accounts; they consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts and issue this report in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act).

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. That examination includes a review of the accounting records and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements have not been met:

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the 1993 Act.

or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michael Black BA

September 2011

British Institute of Organ Studies
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
for the year ended 30th June 2011

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds 2011 £	Total funds 2010 £
Incoming Resources :					
Subscriptions	2	17,739		17,739	18,968
Sales	3	127	1,743	1,870	3,404
Investment Income		513	486	999	1,202
Conferences	4	2,917		2,917	13,734
Tax recovery on Gift Aid Grants	5	13,604		13,604	0
				0	5,000
Total Incoming Resources		£34,900	£2,229	£37,129	£42,308
Resources Expended :					
Journal and Reporter		9,782		9,782	9,634
Other printing				0	7,846
National Pipe Organ Register		4,000		4,000	4,159
British Organ Archive		2,704	1,693	4,397	1,872
Council & sub committees		1,025		1,025	1,219
HOCS and surveys		1,330		1,330	1,276
Bank charges		280		280	551
Conferences	4	1,721		1,721	13,577
Publicity		1,005		1,005	1,367
Other costs		100	225	325	100
Total Resources Expended		£21,947	£1,918	£23,865	£41,601
Net incoming resources		12,953	311	13,264	707
Correction of June 2010 accounts	7	3,355		3,355	0
Transfer to Endowment Fund		(1,000)	1,000		
Balance brought forward		36,711	34,213	70,924	70,217
Balance carried forward		£52,019	£35,524	£87,543	£70,924

BALANCE SHEET as at 30th June 2011

	Notes	2011 £	2010 £
Tangible fixed assets	6	0	0
Current Assets			
Short term deposits and Cash at Bank		85,169	71,669
Stocks and debtors	6	2,374	0
Less Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		0	(745)
Net Assets		£87,543	£70,924
Funds			
Unrestricted General Funds		52,019	36,711
Restricted Funds	8	35,524	34,213
Total Funds	8	£87,543	£70,924

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policy

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis (except see note 2) in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).

2. Subscriptions

The figure for subscription is a record only of amounts actually received during the 12 month financial year to 30 June 2011. No attempt is made to reconcile this figure to the membership year which is to 31 December.

3. Sales

Sales substantially relate to the Leffler Manuscript: approximately 30 were sold during the year. There was a small amount of income in respect of CD sales and 'Reporter' insert.

4. Conferences

Conferences are budgeted to break even. There was a small surplus from Conferences overall, the largest event in the year at the Barber Institute with turnover of £1,015.

5. Gift Aid

Gift Aid on subscriptions and donations in respect of membership/calendar years 2006 to 2009, not accrued, was claimed and received in the year. The 2010/11 claim (for £2,374) has been made.

6. Assets

It has been Council policy fully to write off tangible assets in the year of acquisition which included the cost of printing the Leffler manuscript. Stocks of approximately 90 manuscripts (and a number of CDs) exist at the year end.

7. Prior Year Correction

Accounts for 2009/10 were prepared and audited on the basis of records provided. It became clear only after accounts were signed-off that the former practice of regular transfers between accounts was incompletely recorded. This is now corrected, the unattributable amount (£3,355) being added to Unrestricted Funds.

8. Funds

Restricted Funds are those which are to be used in accordance with specific limitations set by the BIOS Council.

Analysis of Funds:	Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance
	at 1/07/10				at 30/06/11
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds:	36,711	36,533	(20,225)	(1,000)	52,019
Restricted Funds:					
HOSA and Leffler	3,418	1,743	(225)	-	4,936
Archive	1,640	53	(1,693)	-	0
Endowment	29,156	433	0	1,000	30,589
Total Funds	£70,924	£38,762	(£22,143)	£0	£87,543

DAY CONFERENCE: METHODIST CENTRAL HALL, LONDON SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2011

THE RESTORED GRAND ORGAN AND THE MUSIC OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

DAVID SHUKER

For those of us used to searching for interesting organs in dark, dingy and cramped chambers or other such ecclesiastical dog-kennels the sight of the newly-restored instrument in the Methodist Central Hall (MCH) was indeed a sight to behold! Not only did the newly burnished 32ft façade pipes shine but were also lit from near their feet in myriad and changeable colours. The organist at the Hall, **Gerard Brooks**, explained that the look of the organ reflected the almost daily use of the Hall as a conference venue where its visual impact was actually more important than its use for music. However, for a BIOS audience he also demonstrated the range of musical colours available on the restored organ with pieces by Michel Corrette, JS Bach, Elgar, Hollins, Vierne and Widor. The pieces that probably best illustrated the expectations for a symphonic organ built in 1912 were arrangements, firstly, of *Nimrod* that made use of seamless *crescendi* from Swell strings to full organ and, secondly, of *Salut d'Amour*, using harmonic flutes and orchestral reeds to give a sound that undoubtedly prepared the way for the importation of Wurlitzers into newly-opened Edwardian picture houses. However, **William McVicker** pointed out that it would be almost impossible to recreate the sound of the original organ as the acoustics of the hall had changed dramatically over the past century. As originally conceived by Hill and Sons the organ was 'swimming' in a lush acoustic with a reverberation time of 8-10 seconds. The extensive carpeting of the hall combined with acoustic panels installed in

1956 reduced this to around 2 seconds, which is much more compatible with clarity of the spoken word.

The organ had remained in its largely original state until 1970 when a major rebuild and enlargement was undertaken by Rushworth and Dreaper. After thirty or more years of use the organ was in urgent need of attention and reports by Mander and Harrison & Harrison highlighted the main problems. The 1970 rebuild was 'ambitious but economical' (H&H) and there was 'some confusion about the layout, particularly the Choir' with an overall 'lack of integrity' (Mander). The consensus was that there was far too much pipework in the organ using different mechanisms that led to noticeable differences in speech across the different divisions. Access to many areas for tuning and maintenance was difficult and, in places, actually dangerous. The contract for the restoration was awarded to H & H and **Mark Venning** outlined the approach that was taken. The instrument was 'a modestly sized Hill organ submerged under a lot of later additions'. In 1912 the organ had 42 stops which had become 80 by the time of the 1970 rebuild. We were reminded that in 1970 the pressure on organbuilders was to enlarge the organ with the minimum of cost. However, the rebuilt organ was regarded as a memorial to longtime organist William Lloyd-Webber (appointed in 1958 until his death in 1982). The case was made that the good Hill organ buried under the later accretions was worth rediscovering. The original Hill drawstops had survived and were reused with stops that did indeed



Mark Venning

correspond with the label. The option to restore to the original 1912 specification was not feasible given the great change in the acoustic as well as the intended use of the organ. The aim therefore was to restore a musical integrity underpinned by technical cohesion. Accordingly, new slider chests were built throughout to accommodate a specification of 66 stops that lay somewhere between the quintessentially Edwardian Hill organ (with, for example, only two stops at 2ft pitch) and the over-extended 1970 organ. In order to illustrate the result of this approach various combinations of stops were demonstrated by **Gerard Brooks**. One striking example of the blending of sonorities was the seamless gradation of diapason sound down from Great Open I to Choir Open. However, just to remind us of the

legacy of a former age this session closed with a rendition of Arthur Meale's *Chanson d'espoir* complete with light display.

The wider heritage of organs within the Methodist Church was explored by **Malcolm Starr** and **Graham Jones** through the work of the Methodist Advisory Service. We were reminded that the preaching of Methodism began in the open air and that Methodists were expected to worship at their local parish church where they would get their fill of the gaudy delights of organs. As Methodist chapels became established there was no expectation initially that organs would be needed. The remonstrations of John Wesley against the distractions of organs in worship were brought to life by readings from his *Diary* (done very effectively by **Philip Carter** whose work in overseeing the restoration and care of many Methodist organs was recognised at the meeting). Successive Methodist conferences in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries kept organs out of chapels but by the 1820s the tide was turning and by the end of the century the tradition of vigorous congregational singing led by an organ was



Malcolm Starr and Philip Carter

well established. The Methodist Advisory Service started in the 1970s and a brochure 'Organs for Methodism' was prepared in the 1980s. Unlike the situation in the Anglican church, there is no requirement for Methodist congregations to seek advice when deciding what to do with an organ. It has thus been a process of gentle persuasion to get people on board before too much damage has been done. A significant number of historic organs are to be found in Methodist churches with notable examples being: a 1761 Snetzler chamber organ in Wesley's Chapel in Bristol; an 1804 Elliot chamber organ in Bitton; a unique and unusually decorated organ by J W Walker built for the Great Exhibition of 1851, now at Sholing, Hampshire; and, a c.1850 Henry Willis organ with fine fretwork panels from the Duke of Wellington's residence, Apsley House, now at Whitchurch, Buckinghamshire.

Following the AGM, the afternoon session began with a talk by **Rev Dr. Lord Leslie Griffiths** on Charles Wesley's hymns that gave us a glimpse of the stirring oratory that characterised the early days of Methodism. For Wesley, the singing of hymns was a means of internalising the subtleties of theology—'simple people singing profound insights'. Despite the reservations of John Wesley on the potential for organs to distract from worship there was clearly a role for music to provide 'accompaniments in conspiracy with the words'. The theology that pervades the hymns of Charles Wesley is the 'optimism of grace' where the simple and unadorned message of free grace for all is conveyed as directly as possible. This directness is perhaps exemplified by the hymn 'Father, whose everlasting love' where alliteration—'Sufficient, sovereign, saving grace'—is reinforced by repetition—'And all shall own Thou diedst for all'—to drive the message home.



Rev Dr Lord Leslie Griffiths

The first organist at the Central Hall was Arthur Meale (1880-1932) who organised a series of Sunday afternoon organ recitals that attracted a large following. **Martin Ellis** gave us a taste of what these audiences heard by playing a recording of Meale performing one of his popular encores 'The Storm', leaving no doubt about where help would come from as the strains of 'Eternal father, strong to save' emerged from the chaos of the wind-lashed sea. In 1958, William Lloyd Webber (1914-1982) was appointed organist at the Hall and held it until his death. Webber was a noted recitalist gaining an FRCO at the age of 19. Despite his accomplishments as a composer for the organ and a renowned improviser, Webber had little idea of what went on inside the organ, which might explain some of the decisions that were made during the 1970 rebuild. The afternoon closed with two of Webber's compositions—'Dedication March' and 'Verset in G minor'—that attested to his orchestral style of playing. BIOS is indebted to **Melvin Hughes** and **Gerard Brooks** for putting together such a varied programme to illustrate the musical heritage of the Methodist church.

RESEARCH NOTES

PAUL TINDALL

THE LIFE AND WORKS OF BRITISH ORGAN BUILDERS

It has been observed that one of the most important and prolific architectural scholars of the twentieth century produced no monographs about specific architects, so keen was he to avoid the cult of personality and concentrate the mind of the reader on trends, fashions and influences.

Interest in British organ builders as individual artists goes back as far as F.G. Edwards, at least, who coined the phrase 'Father Willis,' having learnt that John Howe the Younger was known as 'Father Howe' and Bernard Smith as 'Father Smith.' His reasoning was doubtful, in that Howe probably acquired the title to distinguish him from his son, or for now little understood reasons: he was also called 'Goodman,' (widower) Howe, and most early accounts call Smith something like 'Old Smith' or 'the famous Smith.'

The first book about a British organ builder was Sutton's *A Short Account*,¹ which was mainly concerned with Smith. The second half of the nineteenth century saw a concentration on explanatory, technical and practical books about organs. Since Freeman's time, there have a number of monographs concerning individual organ builders in Britain. They vary greatly in length and in quality.

Benson²

Bishop³

Booth⁴

¹ [Sir John Sutton], *A Short Account of Organs Built in England from the Reign of King Charles II to the present Time*, London 1847

² William Morgan, *The Benson Organ Builders of London, Manchester and Norwich*, Bolton 2001

³ Laurence Elvin, *Bishop & Son Organ Builders*, Lincoln 1984

⁴ Paul Lindsay Dawson, *Booths of Wakefield: Organ*

Brindley & Foster⁵

Ivor R. Davies⁶

George Fincham⁷ (active in Australia, but born and trained in England)

Forster & Andrews (2)⁸

Grant, Degens & Bradbeer⁹

Green¹⁰

Harrison¹¹

Holdich¹² (a pamphlet)

Hope-Jones¹³ (from an American perspective)

Steve Laurie¹⁴ (active in Australia, but born and trained in England)

Lawton¹⁵

Laycock¹⁶

Mander¹⁷ (a celebration volume about a living organ builder)

Builders to the World. 1796-1893, Wakefield 2011

⁵ Joshua R. Knott, *A Study of Brindley & Foster, Organ-builders of Sheffield 1854-1939*, Bognor Regis 1974. 2nd edition Bognor Regis 1985

⁶ Macdonald Coventry, Ivor R. Davies F.R.C.O. *L.R.A.M....An Appreciation*, Wootton Bassett 1997

⁷ E.N. Matthews, *Colonial Organs and Organ Builders*, Carlton, Victoria 1969

⁸ Laurence Elvin, *Forster and Andrews Organ Builders 1843-1956*, Lincoln 1968, and the same, *Forster and Andrews Their Barrel, Chamber and Small Church organs*, Lincoln 1976

⁹ Maurice Forsyth-Grant, *Twenty-one Years of Organ Building. The History of Degens and Ripplin Ltd, Grant, Degens and Ripplin Ltd and Grant, Degens and Bradbeer Ltd*, Oxford 1987

¹⁰ David C. Wickens, *The Instruments of Samuel Green*, Basingstoke & London 1987

¹¹ Laurence Elvin, *The Harrison Story*, Lincoln 1974; 2nd edition Lincoln 1977

¹² Marie Higginbottom, *An organ builder in the family: George Maydwell Holdich 1816-1896*, Coal Aston 2003

¹³ David H. Fox, *Robert Hope-Jones*, Richmond VA 1992

¹⁴ Bob Jefferson, Steve Laurie, *Organ Builder: His Life and Work*, Somers, Victoria 1998

¹⁵ Philip M.G. Wright, *E.H. Lawton organ builder; Aberdeen 1898-1947*, Aberdeen 1971

¹⁶ Bryan Hughes, *John Laycock, weaver & organ builder*, St Leonards 2002

¹⁷ *Fanfare for an Organ-BUILDER. Essays presented to Noel Mander*, Oxford 1996

Pendlebury¹⁸
 Renn & Boston,¹⁹ (including Davis and
 Kirtland & Jardine)
 Rothwell²⁰
 Bernard Smith²¹
 John Smith of Bristol²²
 Snetzler (2)²³
 W.G. Trice²⁴ (British, but active in
 Genoa)
 Wilkinson²⁵
 Willis²⁶

This list has been crowned by Gordon
 Curtis's recent book on Sweetland:²⁷ schol-
 arly, extremely well researched, and well
 produced.

There have been a number of theses about
 other builders which have so far not made
 it into published form.:

Bryceson²⁸
 H.P. Dicker²⁹
 Flight & Robson³⁰
 Gern³¹
 Renatus Harris³²
 Hele³³
 Holdich³⁴
 Hope-Jones³⁵
 Hunter³⁶
 Miller of Cambridge³⁷
 John Nicholson³⁸
 Rushworth & Dreaper³⁹
 Telford⁴⁰

¹⁸ Bryan Hughes, *Thomas Pendlebury. A Lancashire
 Craftsman*, Wigan 1993

¹⁹ Michael Sayer, *Samuel Renn, English Organ Builder*,
 London and Chichester 1974

²⁰ Stephen Keeble, *The Progress of Frederick Rothwell*,
 Harrow 2002

²¹ Andrew Freeman, *Father Smith otherwise Bernard
 Schmidt, being an Account of a Seventeenth Century Or-
 gan Maker*, London 1926. Facsimile edition, edited,
 annotated and with new material by John Rowntree,
 Oxford 1977

²² D.J.R. Whaley, *Nineteenth Century Organ Building in
 Bristol: A Study of the Work of John Smith & Son, 1814-
 1860*, Bristol 2001

²³ Alan Barnes, *Der Orgelbauer John Snetzler: Johann
 Schnetzler aus Schaffhausen (1710-1785): Leben und
 Werk nebst Verzeichnis gesicherter Werke und
 ausgewählten Orgeldispositionen aus England, Schottland
 und den USA*, Schaffhausen 1981, and Alan Barnes and
 Martin Renshaw, *The Life and Work of John Snetzler*,
 Aldershot 1994 (based on Alan Barnes's thesis *Johann
 Schnetzler, an eighteenth-century Organ Builder*, PhD
 University of Leicester 1982)

²⁴ Maurizio Tarrini, *La fabbrica d'organi di William
 George Trice a Genova (1881-1897)*, Savona 1993

²⁵ A.G. Mathew, *Wilkinson & Sons, organ builders, Ken-
 dal: a short account of the firm's history*, [Kendal 1937?]

²⁶ William Leslie Sumner, *Father Henry Willis, Organ
 Builder, and his Successors*, London 1957

²⁷ Gordon D.W. Curtis, *A provincial organ builder in
 Victorian England: William Sweetland of Bath*, Farnham
 2011

²⁸ J.D. C. [David] Hemsley, *Henry Bryceson (1832-
 1909) Organ-BUILDER and Early Work in the Application of
 Electricity to Organ Actions*, PhD University of Cardiff
 2005

²⁹ Nigel Browne, *H.P. Dicker - a Study of a Nineteenth-
 century Provincial Organ-BUILDER*, MMus Reading 2002

³⁰ Roland L. Keen, *A Brief History of Flight & Robson- the
 Early 19th Century London Organ Builders*, MMus Univer-
 sity of Reading 1999, partially published in *The Organ*
 340, 22-25 and 341, 26-28 (2007)

³¹ Paul Joslin, *August Gern*, part of MMus University of
 Reading 1995. A book on the same subject is in prepa-
 ration.

³² David S. Knight, *Renatus Harris organ builder*, MMus
 University of Reading 1994

³³ Paul Joslin, *Hele & Co Ltd - The early years of the firm
 1836-1919*, part of MMus University of Reading 1995

³⁴ Rodney Mathews, *George Maydwell Holdich, organ-
 builder of London (1816-1896)*, PhD University of Read-
 ing 2004, 2 vv.

³⁵ Relf Clark, *Robert Hope Jones MIEE: An interim ac-
 count of his work in the British Isles*, PhD University of
 Reading 1993

³⁶ Michael Toll, *The Life and Times of the Organ Builder
 Alfred Hunter & Son*, MMus University of Reading 2004

³⁷ José Hopkins, *Messrs. Miller & Sons, organ builders
 and tuners of Cambridge*, MMus University of Reading
 1994

³⁸ James Berrow, *John Nicholson, organ builder of
 Worcester: background, life and work*, PhD University of
 Reading 1996, 2 vv.

³⁹ Nicholas Wong, PhD in progress, University of Liv-
 erpool. A study of the whole firm, not just the organ
 builders.

Some studies of builders have also been found in the *BIOJ Journal* (the Dallams, Brice & Richard Seede, Elliott, Hill, Taylor of Leicester, Hamilton, Harrison, Wilkinson of Kendal, Bruce, Compton and other more minor figures). Elvin's other books are also personality based: *Pipes & Actions*⁴¹ is mainly about Compton, and *Family Enterprise*⁴² includes a long article concerning Cousans of Lincoln. Chris Kearn is working on Henry Jones.

Still, it might be argued by some that we are like the Germans and the Dutch forty years ago; providing splendidly researched work about builders who are at best of minor significance. I would disagree to some extent: from my own experience Holdich and Sweetland (for example), had a very good grasp of how an organ should be built and should sound, in village churches at least.

But where are the studies of the major players? Work continues on book-length studies of Walker and Gray & Davison, but they have yet to be published. Since Hopkins & Rimbault's time we have, naturally enough, re-calibrated our idea of who was important. But of these, the Harrises and the Byfields, the Jordans, Bridge, the Englands and the Russells, Avery, Elliott, Hill, Lincoln, Lewis, and Norman & Beard still have no monograph. Above all, Henry Willis deserves serious study. Beyond the thin volume by Sumner and the first fruits of Stephen Bicknell's work, cut short by his untimely death, there is little to go on. There are however, a remarkable number of well-preserved largish organs by Willis, and they are generally well-thought of.

⁴⁰ Anne Leahy, *William Telford: Organ Builder*, MA St. Patrick's College, Maynooth 1987

⁴¹ Laurence Elvin, *Pipes and Actions. Some Organ Builders in the Midlands and Beyond*, Lincoln 1995

⁴² Laurence Elvin, *Family Enterprise. The Story of some North Country Organ Builders*, Lincoln 1986

APPRENTICES AND FREEMEN: ENGLANDS AND SWARBRICKS

Englands

George Pyke England was a Freeman of the Company Of Skinners.⁴³ He was apprenticed to Richard Causton, Citizen and Skinner, printer of Finch Lane, Cornhill for seven years on 1st October 1782, 'mem[orandum] nothing Paid,'⁴⁴ and received his Freedom on 4 September 1792⁴⁵ 'having served the full term of seven years.' It seems unlikely that he was in practice trained as a printer. Although type-founders and makers of metal organ pipes share many of the same techniques George Pyke England seems to have been working with his father John as early as 1788 when 'G. England' was paid for tuning at St Matthew Friday Street,⁴⁶ and the ex-Oakes Park chamber organ has a nameplate 'England and Son Fecit 1790.'⁴⁷ John England died rather suddenly in May 1791. It was evidently not necessary to be a Freeman to build organs in the City of London in the eighteenth century: Jordan and John Pape were, but the Harrises clearly were not, and there is no trace of the earlier Englands or of Bridge in the city company records. Reading through the Skinners apprentice register the apprentice masters are recorded in a wide variety of trades not obviously connected with leather. Richard Causton (c.1726-1812) was the founder of what became Sir Joseph Causton & Sons, a large printing and stationery company latterly in Eastleigh, Hants. until about 1980. He and his son Henry (c. 1742-1805, Master of the

⁴³ *Reporter* 35 No. 4 (October 2011), 116

⁴⁴ Guildhall MS 30715/5, Skinners company Presentments and Freedoms register 1764-1831

⁴⁵ *ibid.*

⁴⁶ *Reporter* 32 No. 2 (April 2008), 24

⁴⁷ Christopher Stevens, 'An Interesting English Chamber Organ,' *The Organ* 210 (October 1973), 13

Skinner), printed *Kent's Directory* for some years.

William Alfred Adolphus Nicholls, England's son-in-law and successor was apprenticed to him for seven years on 5 April 1803, premium £50, 'son of William Nicholls of St Albans carpenter.' He married Jane Ann England on 6 August 1812.⁴⁸ His stewardship of the England firm, which built a large number of organs between 1792 and 1814, was calamitous. He built organs at Westbury, Wilts. (1817), St Peter, Brighton, and a few smaller ones, but was made bankrupt in 1821.⁴⁹

On his bankruptcy the Assignees auctioned his assets on 12 December 1821 in Stephen Street, including a large organ of 32 stops,⁵⁰ several other organs, and materials.⁵¹ One notice speaks of 'an arrangement made with the executors of G.P. England for the prevention of the sale of the said Bankrupt's effects under a distress for rent in arrear,'⁵² and another,⁵³ in 1823, 'said bankrupt's wife claims to be entitled to certain property and effects of the late Mr. George Pyke England, deceased.'

William and Jane Nicholls had three sons, John England Nicholls (1814⁵⁴-1889), William Alfred A. Nicholls, born c. 1817, and

⁴⁸ LMA Guildhall MS 6839/1; St Martin Outwich marriage register 1754-1812

⁴⁹ *London Gazette*, 10 March 1821, of Stephen Street

⁵⁰ Presumably the one supplied by Gray to St Luke, Chelsea before May 1824. See J.A. Hamilton, *Catechism of the Organ*, London [1834?], 54 and BOA, Gray ledger, volume 1, 39, 29 May 1824. The picture in *Organographia* (RCM MS 1161, f. 22r), is dated 1823. It is signed perhaps 'J.S. de[lini]t,' very likely James Savage, the architect of the church.

⁵¹ *Times*, Saturday 24 November 1821

⁵² *London Gazette*, 21 April 1821, 908

⁵³ *London Gazette*, 21 June 1823, 1024

⁵⁴ Baptized 21 January 1814 of William Alfred Adolphus and Jane Anne Nicholls, organ builder, of Weston Place: LMA P90/PANI/011, St Pancras Parish Church

George Pyke Nicholls (c.1819-1891). The Causton connection in the City of London continued: John England Nicholls 'son of William Alfred Adolph Nicholls late of Stephen Street Organ Builder deceased' was apprenticed to 'Joseph Richard Causton, Citizen and Skinner, Farmer, of Mursley, Bucks, Nothing Paid' for 7 years on 19 June 1828. Joseph Richard Causton was Richard Causton's son, born in 1778.⁵⁵

James Butler, 'son of James Butler late of Drury Lane Fruit Salesman Deceased,' who also claimed to be successor to G. P. England, was apprenticed to him for seven years on 2 September 1800, premium £25.

It has been difficult to find out exactly when W.A.A. Nicholls died, but if he was apprenticed at the normal age of 14 in 1803 he would have been born c. 1789. A 'William Nickolls,' aged 34, was buried 25 April 1824⁵⁶ at St Mary, Newington, from Weymouth street. The organ builder was clearly alive in 1823, but dead by 1828 – see above.

John England Nicholls was described as 'Engraver' when he married Elizabeth Coles at St Mary, Putney in 1845,⁵⁷ and Jane Anne Nicholls was Professor of Music, aged 60, at Shrubbery House, 21 Wandsworth Lane, Putney in 1851,⁵⁸ living with her sister Louisa, 49, Governess, and her son William, Engraver. George and William were wood engravers at the 1861 Census. All three sons were described as *Gentleman* in

⁵⁵ Joseph Richard, of Richard and Elizabeth Dorcas Causton, born 20 January 1778, baptized 19 February, LMA Guildhall MS 4099, St Benet Fink baptism and marriage register 1720-1812

⁵⁶ LMA P92/MRY/120

⁵⁷ LMA, P95/MRY1/386, 18 February 1845

⁵⁸ HO 107/1579 f. 42 p. 7

1889,⁵⁹ despite their father's unfortunate career.

Swarbricks

Thomas Swarbrick (c. 1679-1752) was working for Rhenatus Harris in 1703 when he appeared in the court case *Harris v. Mitchell*.⁶⁰ He said that he was 24 years old. Several joiners involved in the construction of organ cases are mentioned: John Mitchell and his servant Henry Swarbrick made the one at St Andrew Holborn from 1699, which was still unfinished and in Harris's workshop in 1703. Mitchell said in his deposition that he had made the case for Harris at Christ Church, Newgate Street (1689, for £40, plus £19 for carving work), and about eight organ cases in total, including St Bride, Fleet Street. (Harris, 1695, also for £40). Henry Swarbrick, in his deposition, says that he is 36 years old, so he is almost certainly the man of the same name apprenticed to Matthew Williams, Citizen and Joiner of London, on 5 December 1682.⁶¹ The apprenticeship indenture says that Henry is the son of William Swarbrick of 'Winderton in the County of Warwick.' Winderton is a hamlet in the parish of Brailes, a major recusant catholic centre.⁶² It has been suspected that the organ-building Swarbricks came from near Preston,⁶³

⁵⁹ Retired, though 'Gentleman' certainly had implications regarding status. See the National Probate Register: John England Nicholls of Rose Bank, Southfields, Gentleman, 23 November 1889

⁶⁰ Betty Matthews, 'The Organ of St. Andrew Holborn,' *JBIOS* 13 (1989), 67-73

⁶¹ LMA COL/CHD/FR/02. Freedom of London Admissions Papers 1681-1925, accessed via ancestry.com, November 2011

⁶² In 1767 there were 190 catholics in Brailes; see Colin Haydon, 'The Mouth of Hell. Religious Discord at Brailes, Warwickshire c. 1660-c. 1800,' *The Historian* 23 (December 2000). Thomas Harris[on] came from another small but notorious centre of recusancy, Egton near Whitby

⁶³ Betty Matthews, 'Thomas Swarbrick-the End of a Line,' Robert Judd (ed.), *Aspects of Keyboard Music*, Oxford 1992, 95 and *passim*.

but since Henry Swarbrick declares himself the brother of Thomas in the court case, it seems likely that they were both natives of Warwickshire. 'Jⁿo son of William Clutterbuck of Bridgewater Joiner' was apprenticed to 'Henry Swarbrick of Bristol Joynr' on 2 July 1720,⁶⁴ so Henry appears to have moved to Bristol by 1720, presumably with Harris. He was dead before 1730: Thomas says so in a letter from Birmingham dated 14 July of that year.⁶⁵

Henry Swarbrick was presumably the father of the man of the same name who was organist of Hereford Cathedral 1721-54† This Henry declares Thomas to be his uncle when recommending him to the authorities at Southwell in 1730.⁶⁶ Elsewhere in the correspondence⁶⁷ it is stated that Mark Antony Dallam (died 1730) had at some-time employed Swarbrick as a Journeyman. Thomas Swarbrick was already working on his own behalf in 1706 when he built an organ for All Saints, Northampton, praised (and dated) in a letter of 1730 to the authorities at Southwell.⁶⁸ He is thought to have succeeded to some of Rhenatus Harris's work in the west of England: he had contact with the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester in 1709, and was working in Minehead in 1715 and Wells in 1719, 1722 and 1724. In 1719 he was 'of the City of Bristoll Organmaker' in an agreement with the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury. At some point Swarbrick moved to Warwick: he was 'Organmaker of the Borough of

⁶⁴ NA IR1/47, Register of Duties Paid for Apprenticeship Indentures 1710-1811

⁶⁵ Transcription in *Reporter* 4 No. 2 (April 1980), 6. The original is ER1/32/1 at the Shakespeare Centre Library, Stratford-upon-Avon

⁶⁶ Martin Renshaw, 'Southwell Minster- a history of the pulpitum organ in letters,' *The Organ Yearbook* XXVII (1997), 81

⁶⁷ *ibid*, 79-80

⁶⁸ Paul Hale, *The Organs of Southwell Minster*, 2nd edition, Southwell 2008, 14

Warwick' when he made his will on 23 December 1751 and was buried in St Mary's church 16 January 1752. His successor and executor James Broxell (mentioned as his 'trusty servant' in the will) made unsatisfactory repairs at Southwell in 1750-52,⁶⁹ and subscribed in 1753 to a publication of John Alcock⁷⁰ as 'Mr Broxell, Organ Builder in Warwick.' Broxell was buried at St Mary, Warwick 24 November 1767⁷¹ when he is described as Mayor of the town, and his will was proved 21 January 1768.⁷² Organ building may have been a minor part of his activities: the will mentions property in Widcombe and Lyncombe (i.e. Bath) and in Shepton Mallet nearby, where Swarbrick is said to have made an organ in 1745.⁷³ One

⁶⁹ Hale, *op. cit.*, 14-15

⁷⁰ John Alcock, *A Morning and Evening service*, London 1753

⁷¹ In the same register is recorded the burial of 'Thomas Dean Doctor of Musick' on 10 July 1750. Born c. 1687, became DMus. at Oxford 1731. Organist of St Michael Coventry 1733-49 and St Mary, Warwick 1719-44 when he was dismissed

⁷² PROB 11/935, transcription courtesy of Dominic Gwynn

of Broxell's executors was William Hiornes (c.1712-1776), architect and builder of Warwick (and also Mayor 1765-6).

John Mitchell 'Citizen and Joiner' and maker of organ cases appears again when John Pape 'son of John Pape late of Wilton deceased' is apprenticed to him on 3 April 1694. Pape worked as an organ builder in the City and was in dispute with Renatus Harris in 1735.⁷⁴

Correction

Sir Arthur Blomfield the architect⁷⁵ was actually the son of Bishop Blomfield, rather than the nephew. Also the suggestion that Lewis might have studied architecture with Blomfield is unlikely, since the latter only set up in independent practice in 1856, a year after Lewis was already in partnership with Robert Wheeler.

⁷³ Matthews *op. cit.*, 108

⁷⁴ National Archives C11/2250/18, *Pape v. Harris*, 10 February 1735, discovered by Dominic Gwynn

⁷⁵ *Reporter* 35 No. 4 (October 2011), 112

CD REVIEW

DAVID SHUKER

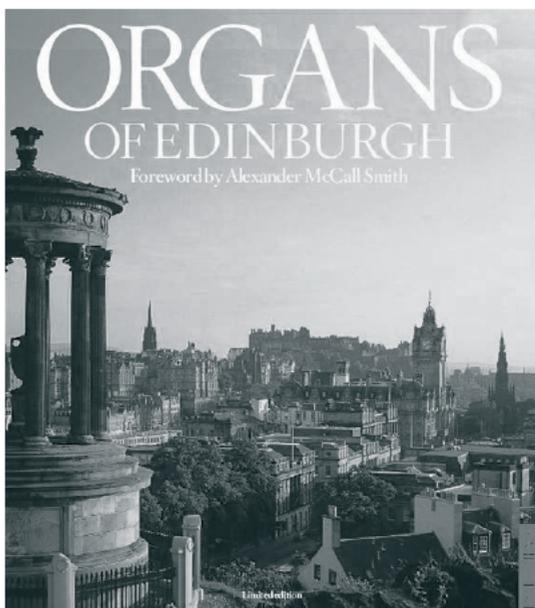
Organs of Edinburgh, 4 CD set in hardback booklet, DCD34100, £54.99. Delphian Records (www.delphianrecords.co.uk)

A few years ago I praised the Post Office of the Duchy of Luxembourg for their initiative in producing a handsomely presented set of CDs of recordings made on organs that had featured on a set of postage stamps. I also remarked that it would be pleasing if Royal Mail could do likewise in the UK. Alas, my plea has fallen on deaf ears in that quarter. Notwithstanding, the ever-energetic and resourceful Delphian label released a 4-CD set of recordings in late 2010 of a number of Edinburgh organs which does more than match our colleagues over the Channel. The earliest organ represented is the 1757 Snetzler chamber organ at the Royal Order of Scotland that has remained in the same room since its delivery. Although the organ did not escape 'improvement' during the early 20C

much of this has been reversed or disabled and the present recording of a John Stanley voluntary and a newly-commissioned work by Eddie McGuire makes use of the original pipework. The slightly later 1765 Enharmonic organ of Richard Parker demonstrates how striking the presence of pure thirds are in 17C and 18C works by Tomkins, Cosyn and Nares. A rare survival is the 1845 instrument (St Mary's Episcopal Church, Dalkeith) by Edinburgh-based organ-builder David Hamilton, for whom this was the largest he built, and has a delicate sound more characteristic of the smaller organs for which he is renowned. This collection also includes fine examples of 19C and early 20C organs by Lewis (St Michael, Inveresk; Morningside: Broughton St Mary), Binns (St Thomas Junction Road, Leith), Forster and Andrews (Pilrig St Paul), Brindley and Foster (Freemasons' Hall), Willis (St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral) and Norman and Beard (Usher Hall).

A recent addition to the Edinburgh organscape is the 2007 Matthew Copley organ at St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral that made substantial use of Thomas Wilkinson's 1882 *magnum opus* that used to be in Preston Town Hall. The sole example of contemporary indigenous organ building (but other organs by this firm are else-

where in Scotland and England) is a fine house organ built by Lammermuir Pipe Organs for Edinburgh city organist John Kitchen. The Wells Kennedy Partnership of Lisburn, Northern Ireland, built new organs for St Andrew's and St George's West Parish Church (1964) and Palmerston Place Church (1992) that are featured in the collection, as well as the 1989 Kenneth Jones organ at Loretto School. Edinburgh has perhaps been bolder than many other UK cities in choosing continental organ builders for recent new organs (is this a harbinger of independence?): Canongate Kirk (Frobenius 1998); St Giles' Cathedral (Rieger 1992); Reid Concert Hall, University of Edinburgh (Ahrend 1978). Players include: Peter Backhouse, Michael Bonaventure, Timothy Byrum-Wigfield, Andrew Caskie, Duncan Ferguson, Roger Fisher, Michael Harris, John Kitchen, Thomas Laing-Reilly, Simon Nieminski, Nicholas Wearne and Morley Whitehead. Enjoy the excellent recordings as you feast your eyes on the many fine photographs.



**BRITISH INSTITUTE OF ORGAN STUDIES
BERNARD EDMONDS RECENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

**BARBER INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2012**

Programme (Subject to Confirmation)

- 10.00 *Registration and Coffee*
10.25 *Welcome*
10.30 *Investigating the archaeology of the late medieval organ – Martin Renshaw*
11.00 *Close encounters of another kind [with Smith 1686 casework]? – Richard Hird*
11.25 *The papers of Arthur Thomas Corfe (1773-1863) Organist of Salisbury Cathedral 1804–1862 – Christopher Kent*
11.55 *Who compiled the Leffler manuscript? – José Hopkins*
12.25 *The explosion of new tone colours in flue pipes in the 19th century – John Norman*
12.55 *Q & A*
13.10 *Lunch*
14.00 *Update on British Organ Archive (BOA) – Chris Kearl*
14.15 *New light on old Birmingham organs – Paul Tindall*
14.45 *One ‘of the Old school, solid, & good, and a Gentleman’: William Done of Worcester Cathedral, 1844–95 – Jim Berrow*
15.15 *Organs at Coronation Services – David Knight*
15.45 *Q&A*
16.00 *Close*

Please check the BIOS Website for the latest information.

The Barber Institute is a 5 minute walk from Birmingham University Station. Travel information may be found at www.barber.org.uk/visitors.html. A map and leaflet with details of Birmingham hotels may be found at www.beinbirmingham.com. The cost of the meeting is £25, including a buffet lunch and refreshments.

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BOOKING FORM

Please reserve a place at the BIOS Day Conference at the Barber Institute, University of Birmingham, on Saturday 25 February 2012 at £25.00. *Cheques should be made payable to 'BIOS'.*

Please fill in a separate booking form (or photocopy) for each person

Name (including title).....

Address.....

Tel No (Eve)..... Tel No (Day).....

e-mail:.....

Acknowledgements will be sent by e-mail. If you do not have an e-mail address, and require an acknowledgement, please send an SAE with your booking form.

Please return this booking form (or a photocopy) to:

Melvin Hughes, BIOS Meetings, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF ORGAN STUDIES
OXFORD RESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE 2012
THURSDAY 12 APRIL TO SATURDAY 14 APRIL 2012
'ORGANS IN OXFORD: THREE DIFFERENT ANSWERS
TO THE SAME QUESTION'

This Residential Conference will span 2/3 days (2 nights, the second of which is likely to be optional) and will be run in parallel with the Royal College of Organists' Easter Course.

The aim of the Conference will be to assess the three most recent new pipe organs in Oxford Colleges, and determine how well they serve the requirements of their chapels:

- St John's (Bernard Aubertin), as example of a Continental-inspired design
- Lincoln College (William Drake), as an example of an 18th century English-inspired design
- Keble College (Kenneth Tickell), as an example of a 19th century English-inspired design.

The detailed Programme is still being planned, but participants are expected to include Nigel Allcoat (consultant for the St John's instrument), William Drake, Kenneth Tickell, Ian Bell, John Brennan, and Nicholas Prozzillo. There will be an evening recital on the Keble organ by Dame Gillian Weir on the Thursday night and it is hoped to include a Conference dinner on the Friday night.

Accommodation is expected to be in a central Oxford College.

A Programme and Booking form will be available from the end of January 2012 from the BIOS Website: **www.bios.org.uk**.

Contact details:

Melvin Hughes
BIOS Meetings Officer

Dr Katharine Pardee
Betts Fellow in Organ Studies
University of Oxford

Booking forms should be returned to:

Melvin Hughes, BIOS Oxford Organ Conference 2009,

BIOS MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES 2012–2013

Saturday 25 February 2012

Bernard Edmonds Recent Research Conference, Barber Institute, University of Birmingham. Further information and a Booking Form is included on p. 31 of this issue of *BIOS Reporter*.

Thursday 12 April to Saturday 14 April 2012

Residential Conference at Oxford focussing on the three new organs in the chapels of Keble, Lincoln and St John's Colleges. Further information at p. 32.

Future Conferences

Day Conferences are being planned at:

- St Magnus, London Bridge (probably 19 May 2012)
- Royal Festival Hall (probably October 2012)
- Grosvenor Chapel, London (probably November 2012)
- St Swithun, Worcester (during 2013)
- St Margaret of Antioch, Crick, Northampton
- St George, Southall

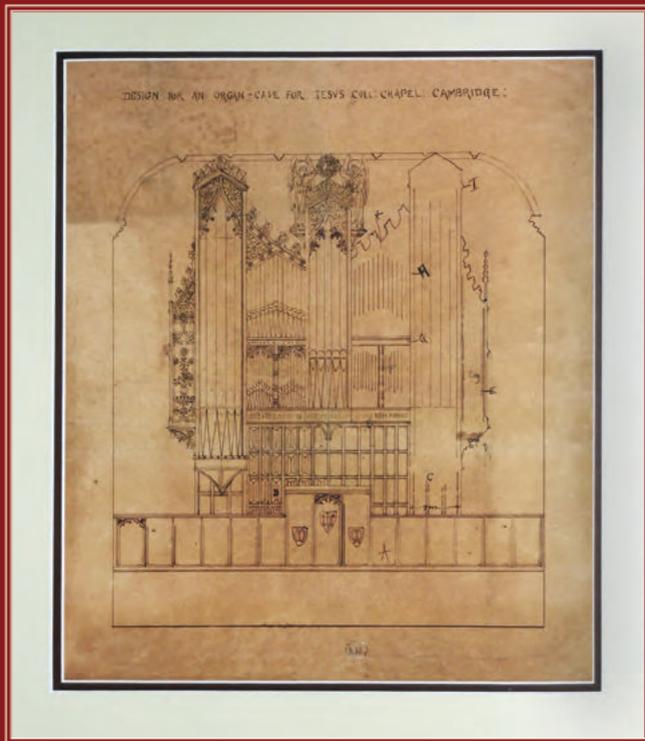
Please look out for updates on the BIOS Website (www.bios.org.uk).

Ideas for future Conferences are always welcome.

**For further information please contact:
The Meetings Officer, Melvin Hughes**



Rear cover: A reproduction of a sketch of a case for the Norman & Beard organ in Jesus College, Cambridge, possibly by Bodley (who was responsible for the casework and gallery), taken from the Rattee & Kett archive in Cambridgeshire County Archives that was presented to John Norman at the 2011 AGM on the occasion of his retirement as BIOS Chairman. (Photo: John Norman)



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.