FALL 2010

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In addition to the numerous service projects on the schedule this summer we also bundled up our Op. 79 at the Cathedral for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia. After the final concert in this hall this past June we wrapped the instrument in protective plastic and then prepared to expand the organ’s total capabilities, reviving the existing pipework, repairing the original windchests and refurbishing other organ components as needed.

During much of this year the shop was also engaged in building one section of the Op. 75 (IV/150) for the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, Calif. However, work was halted when construction of the Cathedral’s bell tower halted the shop and it became apparent that the organ installation would be delayed for over a year.

Threshold Acoustics to plan and execute this challenging project with the organ still in place and with such great acoustical success!”

In July I was able to attend the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Washington, D.C. Our organ at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Rockville, Md., was used both for recitals and workshops. These conventions are always such a pleasure since we get to visit with old friends and meet many new people. Our display booth was as busy as I can ever remember! Despite the extremely hot-temperature weeks that the convention was a great success and enjoyable. In August I traveled to Montreal, Canada, to attend the joint conventions of the International Society of Organbuilders and the American Institute of Organists. It was a fine opportunity for the two organizations to meet together and Montreal was the perfect city for such an event. It was a great time to visit with colleagues from around the world and renew many friendships. The many organs and churches we visited were inspiring and I thank our colleagues at Lottinot and Janssen for their hard work in planning this splendid week.

During the last week of September I drove to Yaquina, Oregon, to participate in homecoming at my alma mater, Western Oregon College. The weekend festivities also marked the 100th Anniversary of the College becoming a state school. I was particularly honored to receive the Outstanding Alumnus Award for Arts and Humanities at a banquet on Friday evening. I also attended the dedication of a new organ at Sykes Chapel and the Nott Memorial. This instrument was a lot of fun to see old friends and all the changes to the campus since I graduated in 1971.

The other exciting news among the shop personnel that I have had three babies sleeping for nearly three months! Within just a few months of each other Abe and Thaddeus Batten are expecting their first, Danny and Shannon Hollis’ fourth (this is the couple that had the triple girls in 2009!) and John and Allison Shotwell’s first. All of these additions bring to our shop and community.

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The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles, Calif., has announced its 2010-11 concert series featuring local organist Frank Lippincott. The series, which celebrates the 15th season of music for All Saints Day on 11/7. Programs featuring Op. 78 (IV/125; 2006).

Meanwhile the installation of our Op. 89 at the University of Tampa has been underway since mid-June and the total finishing should be wrapping up soon. UT’s Shyue Chapel and Center for Faith and Values has been a busy place as construction workers complete this magnificent new building designed by J.P. Fwang of reudoks, Atlanta, Georgia. The 300- seat chapel is a unique structure — tiny high that is flooded with light from a delightfully running the entire length of the building. Large windows on one side of the room and one on each end make the glass play in an almost mind-bending way. This building was a great success and enjoyable. In August I traveled to Montreal, Canada, to attend the joint conventions of the International Society of Organbuilders and the American Institute of Organists. It was a fine opportunity for the two organizations to meet together and Montreal was the perfect city for such an event. It was a great time to visit with colleagues from around the world and renew many friendships. The many organs and churches we visited were inspiring and I thank our colleagues at Lottinot and Janssen for their hard work in planning this splendid week.

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Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values The University of Tampa

Inaugural Recital Series

Debussy Op. 65, 1902

January 30 2:00-4:00 p.m. Donald Clark

March 12, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Carter Terry

Saturday 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Dobson Pipe Organ BUILDERS, LTD.

200 North Illinois Street Moline, IL 61265 Phone: 712-404-885 Fax: 712-404-884 Tel: 309-384-8851 info@dobsonorgan.com
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THE LUNCHTIME Organ Recital Series," held each summer in the Fox Valley area of Wisconsin, this year celebrated its 20th anniversary of the series. On 7/14, Andrew Schaeffer presented an opus on Op. 51 (1996).

Trinity Lutheran Church, Manhattan Beach, Calif., has announced its 2010-11 concert series featuring organists including: 9/12, Isabel Demers; 11/21, Joseph Jennings conducting a program in the church's 15th anniversary of the organ; 12/19, recitals of Op. 78's inaugural recital, was given by Thomas Trnka.

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During our country’s bicentennial year Abe was the director of the Dobson design office in Idaho this summer. With the combination of his training, particularly as an architect, and his proxi- mities as an organ designer, he brought us a higher level of fluency in our work with architects and construction firms. He manipu- lates his CAD programs with confidence, and to combine with his wonderful sense of humor make him an effective and fun member of our team. There is keeping his organ playing skills in good form—-he is frequently at the organ bench when the church is occupied. The organ case was cleaned and polished, and the façade restoration included repairing of badly worn stop tablets, providing a new finish, and the restoring of original voicing. Console restoration included re-wiring of the organ with all new electronic components. The original tubular-pneumatic action was replaced and all new pipes were cleaned, repaired and re-regulated to restore original voicing. Console restoration included repairing of badly worn stop covers, rebuilding the pedalboard. The organ case was cleaned and polished, and the façade pipes were stripped and repaired.

The shop is currently occupied with the construc- tion and installation of Op. 88 (II/22) for St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Park Ridge, Illinois. Pembroke’s new organ in a newly-configured arrangement of the sanctuary in a newly-configured arrangement of the organ will be scheduled as funds become available.

The design office is occupied finalizing plans for Op. 99, a new organ for Independent Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Alabama, and will soon be producing working drawings for the organ’s construction. Once the shop begins to clear of components for the Park Ridge instrument, construction of Birmingham’s windchest will begin. Additionally, ongoing work in the design room always includes the development of predilected layetiques and visual studies for the pur- pose of making proposals for new projects.

The process of finding one’s true calling can often becircumspect and may result in several mid-life career changes. For others these metamorphoses of mind and spirit take place earlier in life: a college major may change several times as a person experiences new circu- mstances and discovers new gifts and aspira- tions. So, meet our technical designer, Abe Batten. He’s always been an organist, but after first training as an architect, then direct- ly enrolling in a graduate music program, his first full-time jobs turn out to be that of an organ designer. Perfectly logical, isn’t it?

In addition to the onsite work in Tampa and for the full summer and fall to install and voic Op. 89, shop per- sonnel have been busy with numerous ionizing service projects.

The refurbishment of Op. 1 (II/5) 1974 is essen- tially complete except for the final sanding and finish- ing of the sixteen-foot F-sharp which is to be installed at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, will begin when renovation of the fal- lacy of the instrument has been completed.

Our Op. 1 (II/5), 1986 at First Reformed Church, Orange City, Iowa, underwent a comprehensive cleaning early this summer. On one of the season’s nights a large crowd of volunteers assem- bled on the church lawn to assist the Dobson crew in washing the organ. Several tanks of soapy water were taken back to the shop to be used for more soapy cleaning in order to provide more stable tuning. Soon after, a novice blower was installed and adjustments to windsystem were made. The original tubular-pneumatic action was repaired and all new pipes were cleaned, repaired and re-regulated to restore original voicing. Console restoration included repairing of badly worn stop covers, rebuilding the pedalboard. The organ case was cleaned and polished, and the façade pipes were stripped and repaired.

Earlier in the year Dobson was asked to submit a report on the condition of the Lyon & Healy (IID; 1898) mechanical action organ at St. John’s Evangelical Church, Independence, Iowa. More recently we were asked to put the instrument, which had not played for several decades, in serviceable condition. With the help of volunteers the organ received a thorough cleaning and various pipe repairs were made and some basic tuning problems were corrected. Additional restoration work has been proposed and will be scheduled as funds become available.

Our Op. 89 (II/22) at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, St. Helena, Nebraska, was recently completed. Work included a comprehensive inspection of all leather in the organ with racking the pipes as necessary. A new silent blower was installed and adjustments to wind system were made. The original tubular-pneumatic action was repaired and all new pipes were cleaned, repaired and re-regulated to restore original voicing. Console restoration included repairing of badly worn stop covers, rebuilding the pedalboard. The organ case was cleaned and polished, and the façade pipes were stripped and repaired.

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The shop is currently occupied with the construc- construction and installation as well as the organBP.com are available on our company- www.dbfloridaco.com. A full report on the upcoming chapel and organ dedication festivities will appear in the Spring issue of this newsletter.