

HILBUS CHAPTER

THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

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Volume 34

Number 4

November 2004

Whole No. 306

Saturday, November 20th Crawl to Four Organs in the Georgetown, DC Area

10:00 AM Dumbarton United Methodist Church, 3133 Dumbarton St.,
NW, 20037. Organ by Georgetown builder, Reiley 1898, 2 manuals
and pedal, 17 stops. Organ by Georgetown builder, Reiley 1898, 2
manuals and pedal, 17 stops.

11:15 AM Epiphany Roman Catholic Church, 2712 Dumbarton Av., NW,
20037. Hook and Hastings tracker recently installed by David Storey.

Lunch

2:15 PM Grace Episcopal, 1041 Wisconsin Av. NW, 20037. Organ by A.
David Moore 1981, 2 manuals and pedal, 24 stops.

We suggest you find one place to park and walk to the three churches.
Parking is often difficult in the Georgetown area. Car pooling is advisable. The
Hook and Hastings is an instrument we visited in David Storey's workshop last
year. There, it was in many pieces. Now we have the opportunity to see and hear
it for the first time in its new space. We thank David for arranging the recent
Baltimore crawl and helping to get us permission to see the Epiphany organ.

Reminder: dues are due. If you haven't paid your \$10 annual dues please
send it to the treasurer, Barbara Birckner, at 6606 Farmer Drive, Fort Washington,
Md. 20744. Make checks payable to Hilbus Chapter - OHS.

The following is a review by Carl Schwartz of last month's meeting at Trinity Methodist in McLean, Virginia:

Founders of the Hilbus Chapter were honored at a celebration on Saturday, October 23, 2004 at Trinity United Methodist Church, McLean, Virginia. Beginning at 10 a.m., the day's events opened with remarks by Chairman Carolyn Booth. She was joined by other chapter members and honorees in recounting the history and lore of Hilbus Chapter. The following founders were recognized: Jim Baird, Ruth Charters, Frances Elliot, Cleve Fisher (deceased), Fred Gloeckler, Pat Heflin (deceased), Randall Wagner, Paul Birkner, John Corkill, Jr., Ben Faidley, Carolyn Fix, Stan Gossard, and Rick Morrison.

A musical presentation followed featuring the church's beautiful organ. This instrument was originally built by Henry Erben in 1850 and subsequently enlarged about 1900 to three manuals by Adam Stein who had been foreman of the Baltimore Roosevelt factory. He added the Choir Manual at that time, new stop jambs, and an Vox Humana. When the organ was relocated to Trinity nearly 30 years ago it was rebuilt by James Baird with some tonal work by Richard Hamar. Some modest changes were made: the organ repitched, tuning slides applied, a Violina put in place of the Stein-Vox Humana, an AGO pedal clavier and two new pedal stops added on electric action. The history of this organ has been recounted many times and it is very much a part of the founding of Hilbus Chapter. The specification follows this report.

Carolyn Booth began the festivities with an elegant and lyrical reading of the Adagio from the First Sonata in F-minor by Felix Mendelssohn-Batholdy. Here we heard the lovely Great Second Diapason as a solo stop.

Carl Schwartz, your correspondent, followed with an unlikely offering for this organ: the "Prelude on the hymn-tune St. Vincent" by Leo Sowerby. To replace the indicated lush string tone the Viola d'Amour of the Choir was coupled to the Swell Diapason, under expression. The solo melody was heard on the Great Second Diapason again, but played one octave higher than indicated. The "Finale" from Handel's "Concerto in G-minor" followed. The chaconne-like variations began with the Oboe and Night Horn of the Swell contrasted with the Choir eight and four foot Flutes and Viol d'Amour. The succeeding sections contrasted the 8' and 4' ensembles of the Great, Choir and Swell before building to the Full Great to Mixture. At the conclusion the buildup included both the Open Wood and Trombone in the Pedal. Carl's final selection was the Allegretto movement from the Fourth Sonata in B-flat Major by Mendelssohn. The piquant Oboe was heard again accompanied by the Melodia and Viol d'Amour of the Choir. The apotheosis was a duet between the Choir registration and the Swell Open Diapason.

Wayne Selleck was the next performer. We were treated to a beautiful reading of Johannes Brahms' setting of "Es is ein Ros' entsprungen on the Great Stopped Diapason alone. Wayne concluded with a stylish performance of "Bass et Dessus de Trompette" from Clerambault's Second Suite. The Erben Great Trumpet was quite snappy in speech and tone and worked well in this music.

The grand finale was presented jointly by Michael Brit and Jim Houston. Michael presided at the Erben and Jim at the piano. We enjoyed vibrant and musical performances of "Now Winter Fades from Sight" by J. S. Bach, arr. Homer Whitford, and the ever popular "Prelude in the Classic Style" by Gordon Young and arranged here by Lani Smith. Both of these selections revealed the virtue of the repitching of the historic organ to modern pitch and the blend of organ and piano was excellent.

To conclude the musical portion of the program Jerry Rich, Music Director of the Church led us in singing the hymn "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (St. Denio)" and improvised a descant and free accompaniment for the last stanza.

The conclusion of the program was a sumptuous lunch featuring delicious lasagna, salad, bread, beverages and dessert provided by our chapter members. The Honorees were again presented.

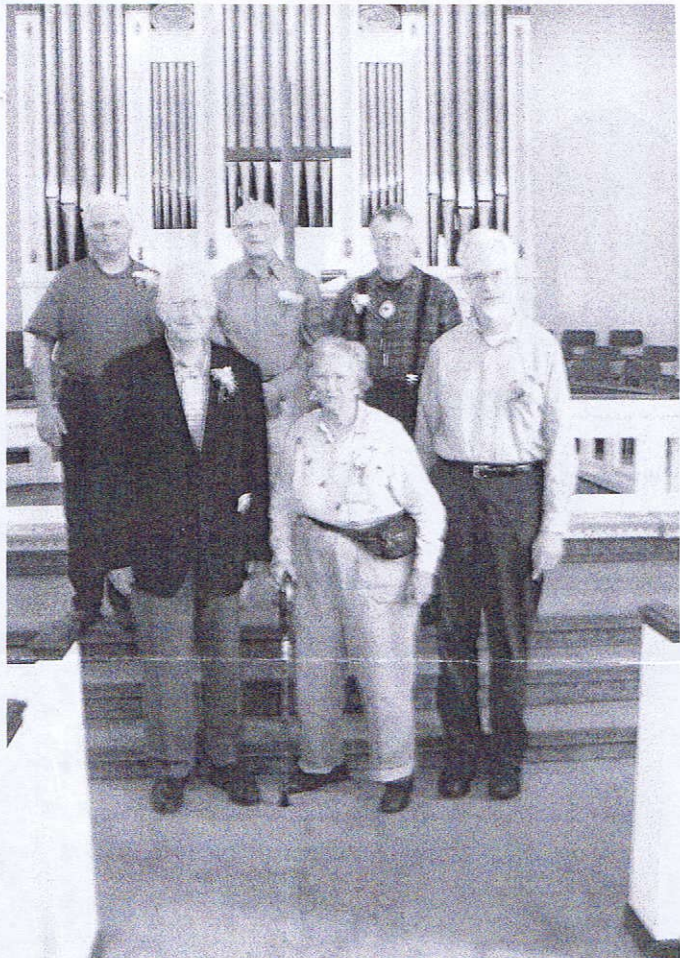
Celebrating the Completion of the Exterior of Dresden's Church of Our Lady (Frauenkirche)

July 22nd, 2004 was a day of great festivities in Dresden. The copper roof and gold cross of the Frauenkirche's dome was hoisted into place. This event celebrated the end of work on the exterior. Much still needs to be done inside. Wood floors and pews need to be installed over sandstone. There is much marbleizing, gilding and painting still to be done. The altar is a very complicated restoration



project. There are thousands of pieces that need to be fitted into their original places. Then colors and gilding need to be applied. Work on it is expected to continue throughout much of 2005.

The photo on the top right is from 1952; the bottom left, 2004 - sometime after July 22nd. Between the Frauenkirche and the modern Hilton Hotel can be seen a small portion of the Palace of the Countess of Cosel, a reconstruction of the exterior of this once magnificent town palace. In future years it won't be possible to see the entire church from this place. New buildings are planned for the area beyond the fence on the right side of the street.



Henry Erben 1850
 Enlarged by Adam Stein
 Restoration by James Baird
 Tonal work by Richard Hamar

Great Manual II
 8' First Open Diapason
 8' Second Open Diapason
 8' Stopped Diapason
 4' Octave
 2 2/3 Twelfth
 2' Fifteenth
 Mixture III (contains Tierce)
 8' Trumpet

Swell Manual III pipes from Tenor C only ,
 bottom octave plays Choir manual

16' Bourdon
 8' Open Diapason
 8' Stopped Diapason
 8' Dulciana
 4' Violina (marked Vox Humana)
 4' Night Horn
 2' Flageolet
 Dolce Cornet III
 8' Oboe

Choir Manual I
 8' Stopped Bass
 8' Melodia (TC)
 8' Viol d' Amour (full compass)
 4' Rohr Flute
 4' Gemshorn
 2' Fifteenth
 8' Clarinet (TG)

Pedal
 16' Open Wood
 8' Diapason
 4' Principal
 2' Principal (extension)
 16' Trombone
 8' Trumpet ((extension)

The Founders: left to right back row
 Jim Baird, Ben Faidley, Paul Birokner
 Front row: Stan Gossard, Carolyn Fix
 Fred Gloeckler. Photo: Bob Hobbs



Performers: Left to right, back row
 Wayne Selleck, Michael Britt, Jim Houston;
 Front row: Carl Schwartz, Carolyn Booth
 Photo: Bob Hobbs 10/23/04

News and Information

From Bruce Stevens

The 2005 OHS Tour will be led by Stephen Bicknell in southwestern England, August 11 through 21 - 11 days and 12 nights. We'll stay 8 nights in Salisbury and make day trips from there. Then we'll move to Bristol for 2 nights and on to Gloucester for 2 nights. We'll see and play many historic 18th, 19th, and 20th century instruments in cathedrals, town halls, churches, and palaces. Because this part of England is so beautiful, we'll not lack for other wonderful sights. Reserve your place early. We hope to see many Hilbus Chapter members on this tour.

From Allen Dreyfuss

A 3 year restoration of the Ladegast organ in Leipzig's Nikolaikirche has recently been completed. This Friedrich Ladegast (1818-1905) organ is the largest in Saxony. It has 6300 pipes, 103 stops and 5 manuals. The work was done by the firm of Hermann Eule of Bautzen. Eighty percent of the costs were given by the automobile firm Porsche, who has a factory in Leipzig. OHS tour members heard this organ before the restoration when it was demonstrated for us by Martin Weyer. The Nikolai Church is famous in modern history as the place where meetings took place that began political action that resulted in the peaceful reunification of eastern Germany with the west. It is also one of the city churches that Bach had charge of the music.

September 8 marked the reopening of the Green Vaults in the Dresden royale palace.* "It is one of the richest treasuries in Europe. Its unique setting, dating from the early 18th century was more famous than any other. There are more than 3100 works made of gold, silver or precious stones, of almost every kind of semi-precious stones, of ivory, amber, ceramics, mother of pearl, of coconut or ostrich egg, of enamel, bronze, wood or glass. There are objects of first rate quality in each of these groups and hardly any that are of inferior quality as works of art." The art objects of the collection have not been exhibited all together since their removal in 1942. Since their return from the Soviet Union in 1958, only a portion of the collection could be exhibited because of limited space. The eight rooms of the Green Vaults were badly damaged in the bombings of February 1945. To protect them from rain water damage, steel beams were salvaged from destroyed buildings and used to construct a temporary roof. Money to proceed with really serious restoration was not available until the two Germanies were reunited. Today almost the entire palace has been roofed ,except



Silhouette of the city from right to left: opera stage house, the castle tower, town Hall tower, Catholic Court Church (now Cathedral) containing Silbermann's last and largest organ, Saxon parliament bldg, and the Frauenkirche. Picture taken from the Marion bridge by P. Birckner, Sept. 3, 2004



View of the Bruehl terrace from a river boat. Buildings are the Art Academy and dome of the Church of Our Lady. PB 9/3/04



Up river looking west from the deck of a river boat the church dome stands out. The tower to the left belongs to the Church of the Holy Cross; famous for its choir school that was associated with such greats as Richard Wagner, Carl Maria von Weber, Heinrich Schutz and others.

Photo: P. Birckner 9/3/04

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for the east wing. Most of the space is white plastered rooms awaiting the labors of artisans to reproduce the historical decoration. South of the Green Vaults was the archives where Mendelssohn discovered Bach's manuscript of the B minor Mass. The north wing and adjacent to the Green Vaults is the still unrestored protestant chapel where Heinrich Schutz worked for much of his music producing life. The space is currently used for live theater.

* From Joachim Menzhausen's "The Green Vaults" p.7 Edition Leipzig 1968

Membership hits 99! We want to welcome our most recent new members: Frances Finch, Robert Lewis and William Parsons. We hope to see you at a crawl soon.

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Dues: Due in October, Send \$10.00 to Secretary-Treasurer. (NOTE: Please make out checks to Hilbus Chapter, OHS)