

Organ Librarian Updates May 2022

May 1, 2022

Dear Organ Library,

Today, I continued gathering material to take to Methuen for the May 21 Franck Day. I hope that we can have a sizeable table there of various editions of Franck's works. I was sorting another box from John Near, and found a facsimile of the autograph of Chorale No. 2, which could be of interest. Also found a relatively new Leduc publication of Franck's works for Harmonium, volume 1. It has a preface that goes into the whole L'Organiste thing - which is apparently a title that was invented by a publisher, not by dear old Cesar. It's complicated, and very muddled in my mind still, but has some bearing on that little Verset in F that I put on the website, as well as on other little pieces that Franck wrote, which may or may not have been included in what was called L'Organiste.

Had just under \$100 in sales today. Am hoping that we can get one or both of my sons working on sales entries again this summer, as there are still 11 boxes and 3 drawers of donations to sort, as well as 4 or 5 drawers of collections to catalogue. Whether it's my sons or other students, I do hope to get someone else working as an assistant for the summer, so I suppose I should make a request for funding approval, say for up to \$4000 for summer help. Let us all know what you think, and let's have a email vote. It worked well last summer, but who knows if I can find anyone this summer

Speaking of the Franck Day, which is May 21: Fisk was going to have an open house on the same day, BUT, due to the worldwide unavailability of slider seals, we have moved it to June 11. [We've now provided OSI with our slider seal drawings and they have made new molds. Samples came this past week, and a large shipment should come along shortly, so it looks like that problem is almost solved.] The current organ is Opus 164, a small two-manual "Italian job" (Ategnati & Serasi models) with "Wechselschliefen" - which means a chest with double channels (side by side) so that almost every stop can be played from either manual. It's going to the chapel of a big Episcopal church in Wilmington, Delaware where Bruce Barber plays. All this by way of saying that I can now attend the Franck Day!

I'm still looking for stuff about the book award and the research grant, haven't really found much yet, but will keep looking.

That's the news for today.

Cordially yours,
Carl

May 29, 2022

Dear Organ Library,

We've had a couple of good weeks at the Library since last I wrote.

The big Franck day last Saturday was a great success I'd say. Scott Dettra played superbly, and the lecture (Christopher Anderson from SMU) was an interesting cultural assessment of how wars and nationalism affect our perceptions. Franck was claimed by the French (eventually), and his legacy co-opted by the Germans (in both WW I and II), but he was really neither - Born in that border region that was The Netherlands, and which became part of Belgium, then part of Germany, then Belgium again. But, I digress - The Organ Library was well represented by a table at the entrance with a display of a facsimile of the ms of one of the Chorales; a bunch of different editions of "L'Organiste; and a pile of free Franck scores - about half of which were happily distributed to attendees, providing over a foot of much needed space in the sales drawer from whence they came.

I went into the Library last Sunday as well, filled orders, and refilled all the Franck. Also took a bunch of work home last week, and our "student help" has begun for the summer. So far, Christopher has ripped and posted a bunch of BAGO

Broadcast CDs (he might actually be done with all the CDs now). We're still in the process of updating the various spreadsheets which list the contents of the broadcasts, but that's coming along too.

Today, Everett and Christopher and I all went in to the Library, but there was some big event happening, so parking was impossible. We did park in the loading zone and went in and filled the orders quickly, and brought home a bunch of cataloguing work. I'm able to do Library email, and edit the website (sales lists and posting of CDs), and the billing for sales, and cataloguing, all from home, by logging into the BU server, so it wasn't really a wasted trip at all - we got all the physical stuff that we needed, and have done the rest remotely.

In other areas, just for fun and news: my choir has one more Sunday - next week is Pentecost. I enjoy having the choir, but I also delight in those luscious summer Sundays where one is alone up in the organ loft and simply plays an "organ mass" of 4 pieces and 3 hymns, with a little improv at the Gospel procession.

At Fisk, we are (finally) putting together Opus 164 for the small chapel at Christ Church, Christiana Hundred (Wilmington, Delaware). After much design and development work with OSI, and many months of waiting, we have our new slider seals and are able to proceed. The rest of the organ-building world (in the US anyway) has also been waiting for these. We had them made in bright green to distinguish them from the defunct supplier's navy blue (which was also our pattern). There will be an Open House for this organ at the shop on Saturday June 18, from 2 to 6. All of you are hereby invited. This is a small early-Italian style instrument, but it does have 2 manuals. All manual stops are available [MECHANICALLY] from either manual! I won't be there though, as I will be on my way to the Association of Anglican Musicians conference in Richmond, VA. I'm going down a couple days early as well to visit the Taylor and Booday shop and compare notes on making plated German shallots of the Schnitger type.

And I got my second booster on Friday. Cases are on the rise again, even among the fully vaccinated, but the symptoms appear to be nowhere near as bad as previously. Two friends have texted today that they tested positive this past week, but that it's like a milder cold.

Hope you all have a great week,
Carl