



Original Name Plate

A HISTORY OF THE M.P. MÖLLER PIPE ORGAN

The Brennan Loft - London, Ohio

M. P. Möller

as restored, installed, and enlarged under the auspices of the

MULLER PIPE ORGAN COMPANY - 2000, 2003, 2004, 2006

GREAT

16' Quintaton
8' Principal
8' Bourdon
8' Erzähler
8' Erzähler Céleste
4' Octave
4' Quintaton
2' Fifteenth
III Mixture
8' Clarinet
Tremulant
Great to Great 16'
Unison Off
Great to Great 4'
Harp
Zimblestern
Deagan Chimes

SWELL

16' Rohr Gedeckt
8' Höhl Flute
8' Viole da Gamba
8' Viole Céleste
4' Principal
4' Rohr Flute
2 2/3' Nasard
2' Hohl Flöte
III Plein Jeu
16' Bassoon
8' Oboe
8' Vox Humana
8' Trompette
Tremulant
Swell to Swell 16'
Unison Off
Swell to Swell 4'

SOLO

(mounted horizontally - Northwest corner)

8' Aeolian Trumpet on Great
8' Aeolian Trumpet on Swell

PEDAL

32' Contra Bourdon
16' Bourdon
16' Diapason

16' Quintaton (gt)
16' Rohr Gedeckt (sw)
8' Principal
8' Rohr Flute (sw)
4' Octave (gt)
4' Rohr Flute (sw)
2' Octave (gt)
32' Contra Bombarde
16' Trombone
16' Bassoon (sw)
8' Oboe (gt)
8' Trompette (sw)
4' Trompette (sw)
4' Oboe (sw)

Combination provisions

(5 x 32 = 160 general and divisional)

General pistons

5 thumb and toe

Swell divisional pistons

5 thumb only

Great divisional pistons

5 thumb only

Pedal divisional pistons

5 toe only

General Cancel

Thumb piston by Great right key cheek

Reversibles

Great to Pedal 8' - *Thumb and toe*

Swell to Pedal 8' - *Thumb and toe*

Full Organ - *Thumb and toe*

32' Contra Bombarde - *Toe*

32' Contra Bourdon - *Toe*

Zimblestern - *Toe*

Intermanual Couplers

8' Great to Pedal - *Tilting tablet*
(canceled by thumb/toe piston reversible)

8' Swell to Pedal - *Tilting tablet*
(canceled by thumb/toe piston reversible)

4' Great to Pedal - *Tilting tablet*

4' Swell to Pedal - *Tilting tablet*

16' Swell to Great - *Tilting tablet*

8' Swell to Great - *Tilting tablet*

4' Swell to Great - *Tilting tablet*

Expression

Great balanced expression

High-speed, tightly-fitted swell box

Swell balanced expression

High-speed, tightly-fitted swell box

Balanced Crescendo pedal

Accessories/Special Features

Green indicator lamp

Wind On

Yellow indicator lamp

Crescendo

Red Indicator Lamp

Sforzando (Full Organ)

Peterson Analog Clock

Back-lit with setting knob

Peterson Solid State Switching

-32 levels of memory

-red LCD indicator in panel

-Memory level "up/down" control

-Set piston next to Great left key cheek

-MIDI Sequencer and Playback system

Macintosh Power Book Computer

For MIDI sequencer record/playback system with Performer 6.1 software and MOTU digital interface.

Blower by Kinetic Blower Co.

Original blower operating at 1100 rpm, generating a static wind pressure of four inches water gauge for entire organ

Organ name plates

M.P. Möller Organ Company

Hagerstown, Maryland

Opus 9154 - 1958

Muller Pipe Organ Company

Croton, Ohio - 2000

The Organ

Owning a pipe organ always had been a dream of mine. John Muller, president and tonal director of Muller Pipe Organ Company (Croton, OH), and a dear friend, had been on the prowl for an instrument for years. Oddly enough if he had found one, I couldn't have purchased it - because I had no where to put it!

FINDING A HOME: THE BRENNAN BUILDING

In September 1996, I was driving on Center Street and noticed the realtor sign on the Brennan Building had been replaced with a sign reading "for sale by owner." The building intrigued me, so when I saw the change in signs, I thought I would satisfy my curiosity of knowing what the place looked like now that it was no longer Carter's Grocery Store. I called the building's owners, Bill and Anne Carter. The next thing I knew, Bill was taking me for a visit! Without the grocery stock shelves, the place seemed enormous.

Then, he took me upstairs. I had never been there and I was simply amazed! At that moment, I knew I soon would be the owner of the building that could, and would, be the home of my pipe organ. It did not matter that I did not own a pipe organ - yet!

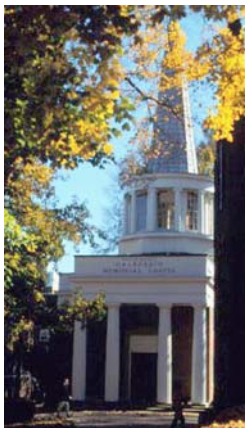


The Brennan Building circa 1955 after the black Carrara Glass was installed on the lower portion of the building.

I purchased the building in October, 1996. It was to become The Brennan Loft and the home of my business, Wilson Printing & Graphics, Inc. My office staff and I remodeled the areas of the first floor and we moved into the building in January, 1997. And word was sent to John Muller: "I have a home for a pipe organ!"

FOUND: PIPE ORGAN

I will never forget that fall day in 1997 when John Muller called. "Tim, I think we have found the one. We're in Galbreath Chapel at Ohio University removing the 17 rank, two manual Möller that was built in 1958 for the chapel!" "As in John W. Galbreath?" "Yes! They want us to find a buyer and if we don't find one, it will be discarded!" John thought it would be an ideal organ for the Loft because it was designed to fit under a nine foot ceiling. The ceilings in the Loft are 12 feet high.



Galbreath Chapel

Galbreath Chapel was built by John W. Galbreath in memory of his first wife Helen Mauck Galbreath. He funded the building, furnishings, and the organ. It has been said the building was built on the site where he and Helen first kissed.

Ohio University possessed two Möller organs. Memorial Auditorium was equipped with a large four manual 60 rank instrument. They sold it to a church in Arizona for \$1,000. John said all that is needed was a typed letter with my bid. I bid \$500. They accepted my offer and you can read the letter/receipt that is framed on the wall above the wet bar.

THE ORGAN ARRIVES IN LONDON

John said they would bring the organ to London the next day. Of course I didn't think it would be that much stuff. 17 ranks couldn't be that big! Could it?

John and his assistant Stan Osborn arrived and I practically went into shock when I saw their truck. It was nearly as large as a semi and it was PACKED FULL! Each rank of pipes was carefully boxed and all other components of the organ were covered with moving pads.

I am very blessed to have a neighbor who is a close friend-T.J. Dwyer. T.J. came to my rescue and allowed me to store the organ in the back room of the second floor of his hardware store. The old hand operated lift moved all the components. The larger pipes were handed up over the back roof. Moving the organ into Dwyer's consumed the rest of the day. That evening, the many friends who helped unload the organ and I went out for dinner to celebrate the arrival of the Möller. For the next two and a half years, the Möller was stored above Dwyer's.

THE RESTORATION BEGINS

I knew the only way I would get the organ restored was to commit to a deadline. It came.



John Muller with trays of pipes on the lift at Dwyer's



The console before restoration. Stan is beginning to remove the old pneumatic action. Note that the console was painted.

CONSOLE: Stan arrived on a cold and blustery day. He took all the old pneumatic mechanism out and dismantled it piece by piece. There was only one thing I disliked about the console: the fluorescent fixture. It was UGLY! It took one whack of the hammer in my hand and it was gone!

We ended up with a console shell, two keyboards, the toe pistons, the thumb pistons, the expression shoes, the crescendo shoe, and the pedal board. All other components were discarded.

The console was transported to Muller's shop. It had been painted white to match the interior of Galbreath Chapel. I did not want white. John informed me that the wood under the paint may not be stain worthy. Jane Muller, John's wife, applied some paint stripper to a piece of the console and found a hidden treasure. The beautiful maple and mahogany console you see is all because of Jane's test.



An empty console shell

The rest of the console components were taken to a professional paint stripping company in Columbus. The entire console was returned to the Muller shop for staining and finishing.



Before restoration



After restoration

SWITCHING AND MIDI: From the beginning of this project, we decided to modernize the organ with electronic digital switching and MIDI capability. Muller used Peterson Electro Musical Systems.



*Bill Groves and Connie Dwyer
sorting the smaller Bourdon pipes*

PIPES: Every pipe was washed by my team of friends and the Muller crew. An entire day was filled with friendship, fun, and lots of washing.

WOOD: Every piece of wood was refinished with shellac. This included all supports, chests, rack boards, and reservoirs. I began performing this task on weekends, downstairs, with parts being placed all over the office. My staff came in every Monday morning to the smell of shellac permeating the office. All windlines and metal work was spray painted so they gleamed like new.



Parts and printing!



*Benjamin Straley and Gene Babb
are all smiles as they help Stan
install the pipes*

INSTALLATION: Once all the parts were finished, Stan began the installation. The first item that had to be installed in the organ chambers was the sill. Next came the reservoirs and wind chests. The monumental task of wiring was the next step. We connected the main windline to the original Kinetic Blower, flipped the switch and it ran perfectly. Then came the pipes.



*The "main brain" of the Peterson
system located in the console*



*The Peterson electronic board
that is located in the organ chamber*



*Steve Jackson and Linda Lewis washing
the Bourdon rank of pipes*



Wind chest before refinishing



Wind chests after refinishing



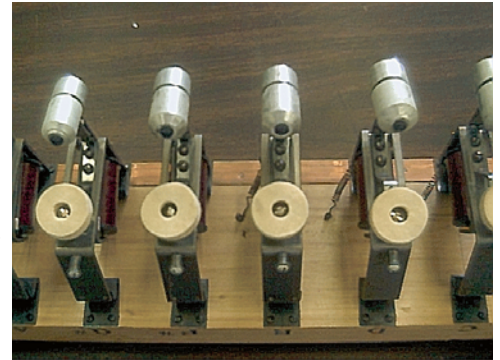
Cleaned pipes in trays

THE SHOW

The facade has a very interesting history. In March 2001, John, Stan, and I went to Akron to a church that had been closed. The church's organ had been removed, but the facade pipes remained. We removed the facade pipes and brought them home. There were at least five coats of paint on the pipes ranging from silver, gold, and at one time, pink. I took the pipes for sandblasting. After that process was completed, the pipes went to the Muller shop for painting and lacquering. John and Stan arrived in June for the installation of the facade. The facade was finished in time for the 2001 Columbus Chapter American Guild of Organists spring banquet.

THE CHIMES

In November 2002, I was browsing the Church Organ Trader web site and came across a posting that advertised a complete set of brass chimes with its action. We had prepared for the chimes when the console was restored so all the wiring and switching was in place. I e-mailed the person who had them listed and I purchased them. The 21 chime tubes were of the old variegated style. We began to polish the chimes with a special metal polish. While polishing the first "C", I saw a stamping on the bottom of the tube and it read J.C. Deagan, Chicago, IL. These chimes were made by the foremost chime builder of this country. Stan rounded up all the necessary electrical items to incorporate these into the organ. We had left room in the chamber for the chimes behind the access door. A few minor parts were missing on the action and we found the company who originally built this device 62 years ago! They supplied us with the exact parts we needed. Stan, and I installed the action and then I regulated the chimes for two days so that all the notes were even in clarity, volume and tone. Today, they sound exactly the same as they did the day we finished regulating each and every note.



*The chime action of our
Deagan Chimes*

THE ADDITIONS

THE PEDAL DIVISION: From the beginning of this project, it was very clear that the organ lacked an adequate pedal division. Due to space restrictions, we decided to call upon Walker Technical Company (Zionville, PA). Bob Walker, president of the company, made a visit to the Loft. We signed a contract after the meeting for five digital 32 note pedal stops. The Walker equipment arrived and we began installation. We painted all the equipment to match the interior of the organ chamber. Once this was complete the on-sight voicing of the digital ranks was performed by Bob Walker. The Walker stops used in this organ are digital samples from other Möller organs around the country.

Now for the first test. Stan sat down at the console and started to play the organ with the new digital stops. The sound was tremendous! Thanks to modern technology, the organ now has a solid foundation in the pedal division.

THE GREAT AND SWELL DIVISIONS: The great division is very complete and solid, but it lacked brightness and was in need of a solo reed that could double as a chorus reed. The swell division included a Rohr Schalmel, which didn't boast the soft solo characteristics of this typical of this reed.

The Church Organ Trader web site helped me locate over 80 complete ranks of pipes for sale from a very prominent estate organ in Michigan. I arranged to drive to Ann Arbor to look at the pipes. Stan Osborn was able meet me where the pipes were stored.

The owner of the pipes told us that it was originally installed in the Horace Dodge Estate. I asked, "As in the car people?" He said, "Yes!" At this point I was very interested because as you all know there was history involved with these pipes. We looked over the pipes, checked the sound of them and Stan said, "You have found a treasure."

We purchased the clarinet for the great division, the oboe to replace the rohr schalmei in the swell, and a solo trumpet for a dream that looked as if it may come true, a *trompette en'chamade*. We packed the pipes very carefully in the trailer and headed for home.



A.R. Schopp's & Son Factory

John Muller inspected the pipes and recommended that they be sent to A.R. Schopp's & Son Pipe Company (Alliance, OH) for a complete cleaning, restoration and voicing so they would blend with the existing pipework of the Möller. When we delivered the pipes to Schopp's, they commented on how well the pipes were made and the excellent condition of each pipe. Schopp's soon completed the work on the pipes and they looked as they were brand new. The voicing they performed was excellent - only requiring John to "touch up" a few notes.

A "RICH" HISTORY OF OUR "NEW" PIPES

While talking with Paul, he told us that the famed Aeolian Company of Boston had built the organ for the Dodge Family.

Aeolian was the largest builder of residence organs at the turn of the century and through the 1920's. Their organs were built to perfection. Some of America's wealthiest families such as the Dodge's, the DuPont's, the Vanderbilt's, the Lincoln's, and the Astor's had Aeolian Organs installed in their enormous homes. Aeolian also built large organs for many colleges and universities such as Boston University, Cornell University, Harvard, and Duke Chapel. Later, the Aeolian Company merged with their rival company, Skinner, to form the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company.



The first Rose Terrace

Once I had a chance to research the history of the Dodge Estate, I found a wealth of information and pictures. Here are excerpts from the information I was able to find:

In 1912, Horace Dodge hired Albert Kahn to build a large red sandstone mansion on Jefferson Avenue in Grosse Pointe.

Banks of large mullioned windows offered a commanding view of Lake St. Clair and the formal gardens between the home and the lake. The name Rose Terrace came from a collection of roses that was a favorite of Mrs. Dodge. From a balustraded upper terrace a broad flight of steps descended to a lower level.

This first Rose Terrace fulfilled Horace Dodge's dream of providing his family with worldly possessions he had lacked as a young boy growing up in Niles. He loved boating and relished his home life, playing his great pipe organ for hours at a sitting.

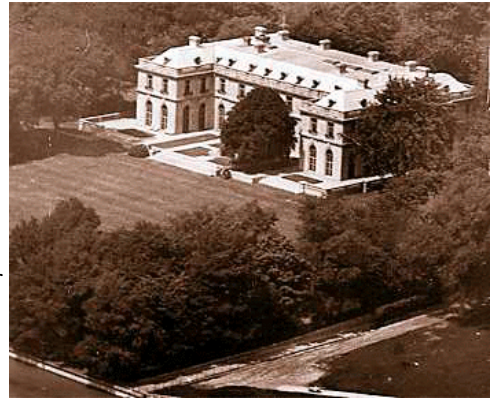
The second, and even grander, Rose Terrace set back far from Lake Shore Drive, the French-style chateau's principal rooms looked out over Lake St. Clair.

Mrs. Anna Dodge named the main salon of her home the Music Room, and hosted many musical performances amidst its elaborate furnishings. She had her late husband's beloved pipe organ reinstalled from their earlier house

Architectural historian, W. Hawkins Ferry described Rose Terrace as "unquestionably Grosse Pointe's most regal residence."

Unfortunately here is the final chapter of this story on Rose Terrace and the organ:

In July of 1976 Rose Terrace, one of this country's most beautiful and luxuriously appointed residences -- perhaps the last of its kind -- was leveled to the ground, spelling an end to a storybook way of life enjoyed by a handful of America's wealthiest families.



The second Rose Terrace



Aeolian Solo Trumpet

The pipes we purchased for the loft organ are from two divisions of the Dodge Estate Organ. The Oboe and Clarinet were from the Great division which was located in the Music Room. The Trumpet that we are using for en'chamade purposes - The Aeolian Solo trumpet (pictured on left) was installed in the solo/echo division which was located in the ceiling of the second floor (the pipes were in the attic) and spoke down through the grand staircase.

I am so thankful that we were able to incorporate these pipes into our Möller. As with everything in the loft, it has a story and this a great one!

SPECIAL THANK YOU

I would like to thank Muller Pipe Organ Company. It is their unending support that has made this instrument a reality. I am very honored to have them as dear friends!



Winston and Claireese

We must not forget the real bosses of The Brennan Building who rule the roost, Winston and Claireese, our Pembroke Welsh Corgis. They love to hear the piano and the organ!