

Im Juni 1981 sandte uns Herr Professor Stuart Kennedy folgende Abhandlung über unsere Orgel:

"St. Boniface Parish is the fortunate possessor of one of the few historic "tracker", or mechanical-action organs in Alberta. Built originally for Saint Aloysius Parish in Bridgetown, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati, it was brought to Edmonton when the Bridgetown Church was demolished.

As the instrument bears no nameplate, its origins are somewhat shrouded in mystery; however, when the writer first examined it in company with Mr. Ken McLaren who installed it in 1960, pencil markings on the larger wood pipes revealed the names "Mason & Colburn & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, c/o J. M. Davis, Philadelphia."

In an article from a Cincinnati paper dated 1969, sent by Robert I. Thomas of St. Louis, Missouri, the organ was positively identified and it was confirmed that the builders were Messrs. Koehnken & Grimm of Cincinnati. Research on their work, and comparison with photographs of other organs by the same builders, would place the date of manufacture around 1883 or 1885.

Johann Heinrich Koehnken and Gallus Grimm formed a partnership somewhere between 1860 and 1864, when they succeeded Matthias Schwab, an earlier Cincinnati builder from Germany, and with whom they had both been employed. They and their successors continued to build fine organs till 1907.

In 1960, the Bridgetown organ was acquired for St. Boniface by its rector, Father Wolfgang Bottenberg.

During the recent restoration by Alex Bernhardt of Vancouver, western representative for Messrs. Casavant Frères, Canada's best known organ builders, there appeared evidence of fire damage at some time during the organ's history, and the substitution of a new wind chest for the Great Organ. This makes the original stop list somewhat unusual. While we can't be sure of it, we believe the original specification to have been something like this:

PEDAL: CCC - D, 27 notes		GREAT: CC - F, 54 notes*		SWELL: CC - F, 54 notes	
Sub Bass	16' 27 pipes	Open Diapason	8' 54 p	Open Diapason T	8' 37 p
		(Stopped Diapason B)	8' 24 p	(Stopped Diapason B)	8' 24 p***
Great to Pedal		(Stopped Diapason T)	8' 30 p**	(Stopped Diapason T)	8' 30 p***
Swell to Pedal		Clarabella T	8' 30 p	Viola di Gamba T	8' 37 p
Pedal Check		Dulciana T	8' 30 p	Principal	4' 54 p
		Principal	4' 54 p	Clarinet or T	8' 37 p
"B" - Bass		Flute	4' 54 p**	Hautboy	
"T" - Treble		Twelfth	2-2/3' 54 p	Tremolo	
"p" - pipes		Fifteenth	2' 54 p	Bellows Signal	
Balanced Swell Pedal.		Swell to Great			
Two Combination Pedals.					



- \* Great Wind Chest has 58 notes.
- \*\* Metal pipes with Chimneys, ear-tuned.
- \*\*\* Wooden pipes with stoppers.

When the organ came to Edmonton in 1960, the original Swell reed-stop, (Clarionet or Hautboy), had been replaced by a four-foot Harmonic Flute of 37 pipes. Mr. McLaren planted it at two-foot pitch to replace the Viola di Gamba, the pipes of the latter having been damaged beyond repair. A bass chest of 17 notes on pneumatic action, was added outside the Swell-box to complete the compass to 54 notes, and a 1912 Warren Clarionet installed. Later this was replaced by a 'Mixtur III fach', imported from Germany.

In restoring the instrument, Mr. Bernhardt has releathered the bellows, repaired the wind chests, pipe racks and all parts of the action, revoiced and regulated all 725 pipes of the organ, so that each one speaks with its original tone and volume. With proper care and maintenance, and periodic tuning, it should serve for nearly another century.

Its present specification reads as follows:

<u>PEDAL:</u>		<u>GREAT:</u>		<u>SWELL:</u>	
Sub Bass	16'	Open Diapason	8'	Open Diapason T	8'
Great to Pedal		(Stopped Diapason B)	8'	(Stopped Diapason B)	8'
Swell to Pedal		(Stopped Diapason T)	8'	(Stopped Diapason T)	8'
Pedal Check		Dulciana T	8'	Principal	4'
		Principal	4'	Flute	2'
Balanced Swell Pedal		Flute	4'	Mixtur	III f
Two Combination		Twelfth	2-2/3'		
Pedals.		Fifteenth	2'		
		Spare*			
		Swell to Great			
Composition of "Mixtur III fach":					
C1	1'	2/3'	1/2'		
F2	1-1/3'	1'	2/3'		
F3	2'	1-1/3'	1'		
G4	2-2/3'	2'	1-1/3'		

\*A "Terz 1-3/5'" to match the original tonality, is intended here.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

D. Stuart Kennedy  
June , 1981"