

The OPEN AIR ORGAN

The Latest Achievement

Concerning the installation of this type of Organ in the New Greek Amphitheatre of the University of Virginia

M. P. MÖLLER

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HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND



DEDICATION EXERCISES, Greek Theatre, University of Virginia, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.

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Foreword by the Builder

E PUBLISH this description of the large organ recently installed by us in the new Greek Amphitheatre of the University of Virginia, believing that its success will do much to stimulate interest in "open air" organs in every part of the country.

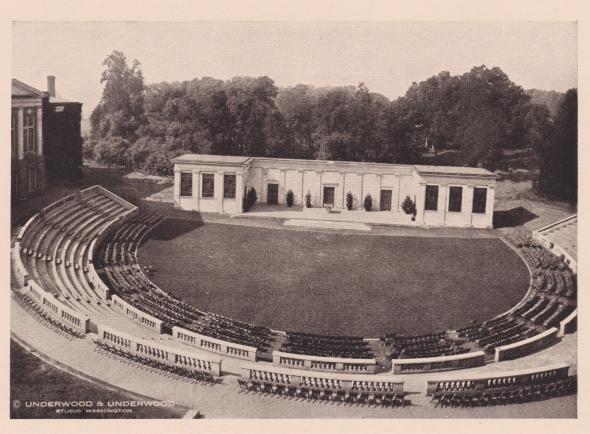
It has long been our belief that such installations could be successfully made and that pipe organs could be produced, notwithstanding climatic conditions, of sufficient power to be readily heard over a wide area. We believed this would result in not only the entertainment of all classes, but more especially the promotion of general interest in the best music—the "King of musical instruments" played by a master musician. The unparalleled success of this organ will convince the most pessimistic.

We wish to acknowledge our obligations to Prof. Fiske Kimball, A. I. A., and Prof. Arthur Fickenscher, members of the Faculty, for their hearty co-operation and valuable assistance.

M. P. MÖLLER

Hagerstown, Md.

September, 1921



The Amphitheatre, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va. (Organ Located in Left Wing of Stage)

University of Virginia Centennial

AY 31st to June 3rd, 1921, marked the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville, one of America's oldest and best known schools of learning and culture, the Alma Mater and Toast of many men famous in the literary, religious, professional and political life of the Nation; conceived and championed by that pre-eminent Scholar, Statesman and President of the United States—Thomas Jefferson.

No previous occasion of like character has brought together such a distinguished body of Educators, Statesmen and Scientists from all parts of the World. There were present the Presidents of all the leading Universities and Colleges of the United States, the heads of the leading Universities of Canada, Europe and South America; also delegates from New Zealand, The Royal Society, The Academie Francaise, the

the University. It is located in a quadrangle on the campus, flanked on three sides by stately ivy-covered buildings and, on the fourth, by two stuccoed concrete structures, connected at the rear by a wall with three openings, broken by applied pilasters.

Between these structures is the stage, having for a background a magnificent grove of maples, affording the architect a setting unique. The entire structure is of concrete, the rows of seats extending in a semicircle, surmounted by a balustrade, around three sides. There is a distance of one hundred and seventy-two feet between the ends, and a drop in levels of twenty-two feet from the top row to the green sward which forms the center.

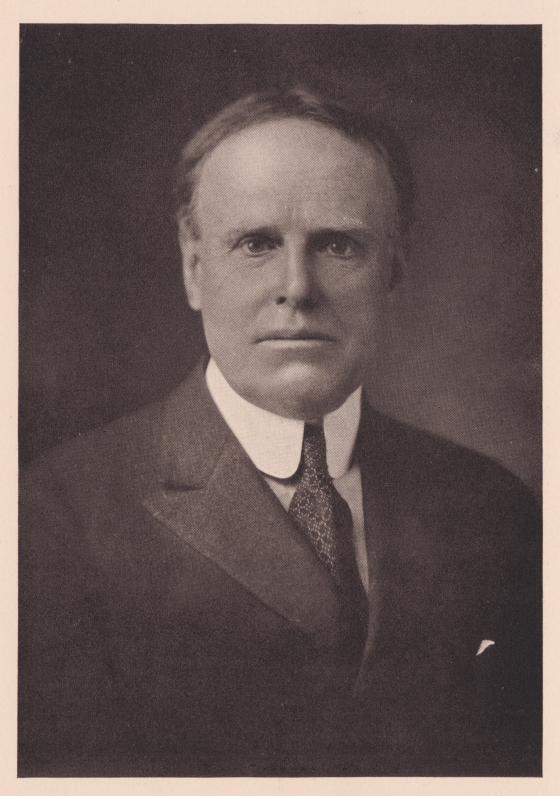
The Amphitheatre will have a most important part in the future work of the University. Here will be held open-air concerts, organ recitals, aesthetic dances, educational and religious conventions and lectures, which may be enjoyed by thousands instead of hundreds, as in the case of the usual college and civic auditoriums.

Academie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres, the British and French Ambassadors to the United States, the Governor of the Commonwealth, and many others.

An especially noteworthy event in the commemorative ceremonies was the dedication of the new Greek Theatre, the gift of Mr. Paul Goodloe McIntire, an alumnus. Here the exercises were staged, including a notable pageant illustrating the history of the University from its inception to the present date, together with a dedicatory recital by Humphrey J. Stewart, Mus. Doc., of San Diego, California, on the magnificent pipe organ (also the gift of Mr. McIntire) with which the amphitheatre is equipped.

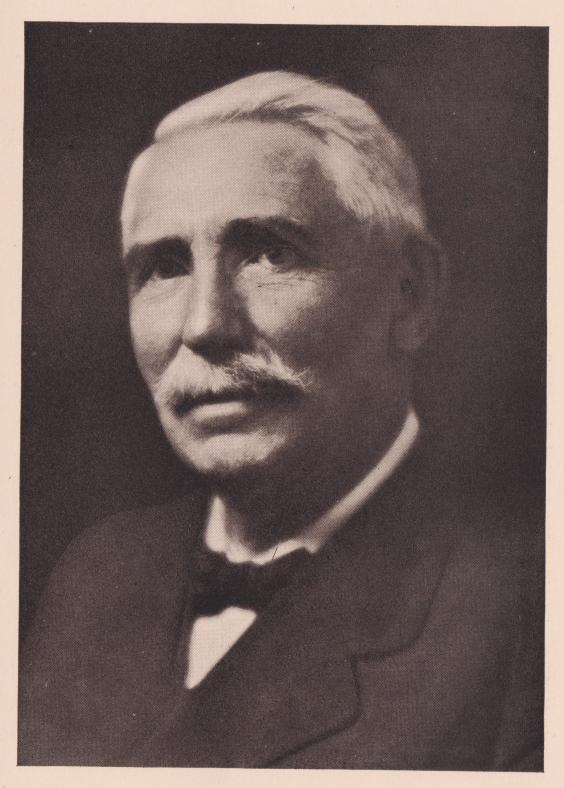
The Amphitheatre

A structure of noble proportions, of pure Grecian architecture, was designed by Prof. Fiske Kimball, A. I. A., a member of the faculty of the McIntire School of Fine Arts of



Mr. Paul Goodloe McIntire

Donor of the Organ



Mr. M. P. Möller Builder of the Organ

The Organ

This being the first pipe organ ever installed in an open-air Amphitheatre in the East, and the third in America (the others being in the dry climate of the far West), problems presented themselves for solution for which there was no precedent. The protection of the organ itself from the damp climatic conditions, the demand for sufficient power that it could be heard at a distance despite the heavy atmosphere which frequently prevails in that section; such were the formidable problems. Both the builder of the organ and the architect made an exhaustive study looking toward proper design and construction of the organ chambers, in order that the mechanism would be thoroughly protected without in any way obstructing tone egress. This has been accomplished in such a satisfactory manner that the success of similar future installations is assured.

One wing of the stage group was constructed to house the organ. This concrete chamber is divided into four separate sections or subchambers. Two of these house the organ proper. The openings, for tone egress, are filled with bronze screens, back of which are the expression shutters for the various departments, and, in addition, there have been provided rolling steel shutters to fully protect the organ from the weather. In a third room is located the large electric blower which furnishes wind for the organ, to which is directly connected the low voltage compound electric generator which produces the current for the organ action. Special care has been taken and further equipment provided to protect the organ against dampness, cold and condensation.

The console, or keyboard, is of movable type, permanently mounted, together with the player's bench, on a special platform on rollers. It is connected to the organ by flexible electric cables. When the organ is not in use, the entire console unit is housed in the fourth chamber, designed specially for that purpose.

In the construction of the organ only materials of the highest excellence were used—every piece

of lumber being thoroughly seasoned by being exposed to the air for a long period, then carefully selected and thoroughly kiln dried. Electric cables were manufactured specially for this particular instrument. The mechanism throughout is of the highest order, and a variety of air pressures are used for the different stops ranging from ten inches on the softer Solo stops up to twenty inches on the Tubas, Trombone and the large Diapasons.

Simplicity of construction and careful attention to the minutest details characterize the entire instrument, with the view of greatest durability and immediate response of pipes to touch of key, the micrometer test being used for pipes and couplers. The console appointments are most complete, affording every facility for convenient registration and ease in playing.

The specifications of the organ which follow in detail were prepared by the builder in collaboration with Prof. Arthur Fickenscher, Dean of the Department of Music of the University.

Specifications

GREAT ORGAN		Swell Organ	
Open Diapason	16'	Tibia Clausa	16'
Stentorphone	8'	Open Diapason	8'
Open Diapason	8'	Stopped Diapason	8'
Grosse Flute	8'	Viole d'Orchestre	8'
Doppel Flute	8'	Viole Celeste	8'
Gamba	8'	Flute d'Amour	4'
Octave	4'	Violina	4'
Flute Harmonique	4'	Cornet	3 ranks
Fifteenth	2'	Cornopean	8'
Tuba Major	16'	Oboe	8'
Tuba	8'	Vox Humana	8'
Clarion	4'	Tremulant	
Chimes 20	Notes		
All stops except Nos. 1, 2 and 3			
under expression			
CHOIR ORGAN		PEDAL ORGAN	
Open Diapason	8'	Open Diapason	16'
Concert Flute	8'	Bourdon	16'
Gamba	8'	Violon	16'
Doppel Flute	8'	Octave	8'
Dulciana	8'	Flute	8'
Flute Harmonique	4'	Soft Flute	8'
Piccolo Harmonique	2'	Tuba	16'
Euphonium	8'	Tuba	8'
Clarinet	8'	Trombone	16'
Tremulant			

MECHANICAL ACCESSORIES

Nineteen couplers and Unison Controls.

Five adjustable pistons controlling Swell and Pedal stops.

Five adjustable pistons controlling Great and Pedal stops.

Five adjustable pistons controlling Choir and Pedal stops.

Three adjustable pistons controlling Pedal stops.

Three adjustable pistons controlling Full Organ.

Pedal Movements:

Great to Pedal Reversible Swell Organ Expression Pedal Choir Organ Expression Pedal Grand Crescendo Pedal.





Dr. Humphrey J. Stewart at the organ console The Amphitheatre, University of Virginia

The following is a copy of a letter received without solicitation from Dr. Humphrey J. Stewart, Municipal Organist of San Diego, California, who played the dedicatory recital:

"Having thoroughly tested and examined the organ built by M. P. Möller for the University of Virginia, I have much pleasure in stating that the instrument is in every way satisfactory, both in tone and mechanism."

(Signed) HUMPHREY J. STEWART