

GIUSEPPE ABATI Organ builder

QUINTO

Notes regarding the Parish Organ, complement to what published on page 77 of "ORGANS IN ITALIAN SWITZERLAND" by Aldo Lanini Volume II (on Musical Research in Italian Switzerland).

The pipe organ is removed from the Music Conservatory in Zurich, CH, on the 27th December 1983. Some volunteers from the Ticino county come with 2 vans (one of which was used to transport big farm animals....but it was squeaky clean!) and they help to dismantle it and move it.

Everything was brought to Quinto and stored in the choir quarters and other spaces within the Parish. The Parish Council (attenzione, errore in Italiano dice Coniglio anziché Consiglio) had initially accepted my proposal of 1st June 1983, subsequently integrated in December at a meeting with some members of the Council, after having viewed the organ in November in Zurich and done the due observations before dismantling it.

Subsequently, on the 13th February 1984, in another meeting with some of the Parish council members, I forwarded a definite proposal (with amendments and additions that I deemed necessary for a refurbishment), integrated with drawings that highlighted the appearance the organ would have had once in the Church. This proposal was to be submitted for approval at the Parish Meeting.

The proposed changes derived mainly from 3 reasons

* To move the keyboard to the middle of the instrument in the least deep area (it previously was on the right hand side which is deeper) in order to leave a 'transit' space behind the organist. This has implied widening the Organ by 50 cm.

* Lift by 40 cm the line where the pipes start so that they are in full sight from the Church and not just partially visible.

* Insert a definite number of pipes and complete it as it was mainly built in wood (originally it was made of just the left hand side; in the middle and right hand side it was all in wood).

As we've had to insert these pipes, which really ought to have been made of a 'noble' metal, it made sense that they played music as well.

It was possible to achieve 2 results: a 4 foot Pedal octave and a Main one of 2 feet in Manual 1. The latter has implied the modification of the Mixture register to the 1st Manual, from 2 feet base to $1 + \frac{1}{3}$; inside the organ there should still be a small box which contains the left over pipes which are a result of this adaptation.

Last but not least, I suggested to add an 8 foot Trumpet which played both with manual and with pedals (quite powerful; after a few years, following Mr Giulini's advice, the renowned organist from Airolo, I have toned it down a bit).

The Parish Assembly that spring accepted and approved the credit; I was told about this decision unofficially a few weeks later and subsequently received the formal letter dated 30th November 1984 – by which time the order for the supply of the material from Germany had already left.

I have built three small soundboards in order to hold/action the additional parts; these are fully equipped with magnetic valves on the electric side – electronic in order to activate the register. I have also replaced a small regulating bellow as the existing one was too small and unreliable (the one on the right, on the outside of the case).

The carpentry jobs were carried out by Mr Bronner, joiner in Quinto, who then passed on the task to his 'maestro', Mr Fransioli from Mascengo.

I went to visit Quinto on the 4th March 1985 in order to start the assembling process on the spot as I had prepared all the necessary material in the previous months. The job was completed on the 28th June 1985.

From my paperwork I can tell you the total amount was CHF 38.100, plus CHF 1.600 for 'expenses'.

G: Abati – 10 ottobre 2017.

