

DALLAS AGO 2017 SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL CONVENTION

Workshop: *It all goes back to Otto*, the Tracker Revival in Texas and mid-America

Presenter: George Bozeman

Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 3:45 p.m., St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church

AN INFORMAL TIME LINE OF EVENTS OF THE TRACKER REVIVAL :

- 1906 Albert Schweitzer's pamphlet *The Art of Organ Building and Organ Playing in Germany and France*, the first document of The Organ Reform, a movement to restore the organ to its classical form.
- 1918 Otto Hofmann born in Texas
- 1924 last American tracker built by Hook & Hastings, Opus 2483, Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Millers Falls, Massachusetts.
- 1926 1926 Freiburg Conference, featured an organ built by Walcker to a stoplist by Praetorius in 1618. Christhard Mahrenholz keyed a close connection between organ reform and church liturgy and music. The Freiburg conference gave the decisive impetus to the organ reform movement in Germany, which eventually led to a general surge of interest in reform throughout most of Europe and North America. Arp Schnitger emerged as the historical idol of the movement. Early on the movement divided into two groups, those interested in strict restorations and reproduction of great Baroque organs, and those using the precepts of historical instruments to provide organs to support the contemporary religious needs.
- 1935 Twelve small positives built by Walter Holtkamp in Cleveland
Alexander Schuke organ in Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Kirche, Berlin-Zehlendorf, first modern tracker organ in Berlin.
- 1938 Three stop tracker positive built by Otto Hofmann
- 1940 Two stop tracker positive built by Charles McManis
- 1949 Hofmann meets Albert Schweitzer
- 1950 Hofmann tracker (rebuild) St. James Episcopal, Taylor, Texas
- 1950 Rieger tracker, first of a number of small organs from this Austrian firm
Schlicker tracker (rebuild), Grace Episcopal, Sandusky, Ohio
- 1853 Rubin Frels tracker (rebuild), First Church of Christ, Scientist, Victoria, Texas
- 1954 Flentrop tracker, University Presbyterian, San Antonio, Texas
- 1955 Hofmann tracker (rebuild) Beacon Hill Presbyterian, San Antonio, Texas
- 1955 Schlicker tracker, Congregational Church of Christ, Tryon, North Carolina
- 1956 Hofmann tracker (rebuild) First Cumberland Presbyterian, Austin, Texas
- 1956 Hofmann tracker (rebuild) Matthews Memorial Presbyterian, Albany, Texas
- 1956? Hofmann tracker (rebuild) Second Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas
- 1957 von Beckerath tracker, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran, Cleveland, Ohio
- 1957 Hofmann tracker (rebuild) First Presbyterian, Austin, Texas
- 1957 Hofmann tracker (rebuild) First Presbyterian, Kingsville, Texas
- 1958 Hofmann tracker (restoration) Sam Houston Museum, Huntsville, Texas
- 1959 Andover tracker, Redeemer Lutheran, Lawrence, Massachusetts
- 1959 Flentrop tracker, Busch-Reisinger Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1960 Andover tracker, Mount Calvary Episcopal, Baltimore, Maryland
- 1960 Hofmann tracker (rebuild) Little Flower Catholic Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- 1961 Hofmann tracker, Practice Instrument, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas
- 1961 Hofmann tracker, Monastery of Mary, Mother of Christ, Lafayette, Louisiana

- 1962 Hofmann tracker, Concert Hall, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas
- 1962 Sipe-Yarbrough tracker, St. Stephen United Methodist, Mesquite, Texas
- 1962 John Brombaugh tracker, first instrument, now in St. Andrew's Lutheran, Farmersville, Ohio
- 1963 Hofmann trackers, 2 Practice Instruments, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas
- 1964 Hofmann tracker, Bethlehem Lutheran, Beaumont, Texas

SOURCES:

The Tracker Organ Revival in America, compiled and edited by Uwe Pape, Pape Verlag, Berlin, no date
Otto Hofmann: Texas Organbuilder (1950 -1967), David J. Polley, Dissertation for Doctor of Musical
Arts, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, December 1993

Wikipedia › wiki/Otto_Jürgen_Hofmann

The Organ in Church Design, Joseph E. Blanton, Venture Press, 1957

Personal Correspondence with Roy Redman

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Lenora McCroskey for help navigating Academia

Roy Redman for sharing memories