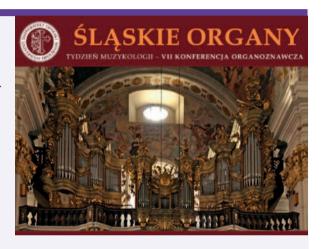
REPORT

Report from VII Conference on the Organ Knowledge "Silesian Organs",

Opole, 18th May 2021

On 18th May 2021, as part of the 6th Musicology Week of the University of Opole organized by the Department of Musicology, Conference on the Organ Knowledge in the series "Silesian Organs" was held in Opole. It was the seventh edition of the conference organized by the Department of Musicology of the University of Opole and the Diocesan Institute of Church Music in



Opole. Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic restrictions, the conference was held in a mixed form: intramurally in the building of the Faculty of Theology and online.

The conference started at 9:00 with a speech by the Vice-Rector for Education and Students of the University of Opole, dr hab. Izabella Pisarek, Professor at the University of Opole, who welcomed the guests and expressed joy at the next edition of the conference, so important for the musicology of Opole. Each edition is a chance to present the results of research on the tradition of organ building and an opportunity for discussion, as well as a forum for presenting planned projects in the field of organ research.

The conference consisted of three sessions. The first one included five presentations. Dr Michał Szostak from Warsaw discussed the fate of the organs of Johann Gottlob Meinert from the no longer existing Evangelical church in Rybnica (Reibnitz) near Jelenia Góra. The second speaker was dr Andrzej Gładysz representing the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, who discussed the

NR 4/2021 ______ 165



history of the organs of the Silesian builder Franz Lux at the Catholic University of Lublin. The third speaker was dr hab. Maciej Babnis representing the Department of Music Art of the Pomeranian Academy in Słupsk. In his speech, he presented the organ in Marynowy pointing to some assumptions that the instrument may come from Silesia. Then, Petro Chyryk from Ukraine gave a lecture entitled "The Historic Organ of the *Gebrüder Rieger* Company in the Church of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Stryj". The last speech in the first session was a lecture by Piotr Matoga from Kraków, a student of musicology in Opole, on the history of the *Rieger* organ in the church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (of Fathers Discalced Carmelites) in Kraków. The first session was complemented by a discussion on the content presented by the above-mentioned experts.

After a coffee break, the second session of the conference began which consisted of the central lecture of the conference, delivered by a recognized organologist, prof. dr hab. Julian Gembalski from the Academy of Music in Katowice entitled "The Evolution of the Sound Aesthetics of the *Berschdorf* Organ". On the one hand, the lecture was an extremely interesting summary of the achievements of the *Berschdorf* company in the sphere of its sound aesthetics over the years of the company's history, which had been repeatedly undertaken as part of previous editions of the Opole conferences. On the other hand, it worked as a prelude

to the presentation of a new scientific publication by Rev. dr hab. Grzegorz Poźniak, Professor at the University of Opole, entitled "The Post-War Fate of the Organ-Building Company Berschdorf from Nysa", published in Opole in 2020 by the SINDRUK-DIMK Publishing House, included in the Ministry of Education and Science list. A direct preparation for the above-mentioned presentation was the introduction made by Rev. dr hab. Franciszek Koenig, Professor at the University of Opole and also the deputy head of the Department of Musicology of the University of Opole. As part of his lecture, the author of the publication (Rev. prof. Grzegorz Poźniak) spoke about the evident progress of contemporary research on the achieve-



ments of the *Berschdorf* company. The presented work is based on the transcription of personal diaries of the organ builder Carl Berschdorf and the accounts by his family members still living in Germany and the USA.

At the end of the second session, two presentations were made. The author of the first was Ewelina Szendzielorz, assistant at the Department of Musicology, who spoke about the promotion of organs and music education in children's publishing houses. Books by Michał Alico, also published by the aforementioned SINDRUK-DIMK Publishing House, were taken into account. The author of the second presentation was dr Michał Duźniak from the Department of Organ and Church Music at the Academy of Music in Katowice, who informed the participants about the conservation of instruments in the Bielsko-Żywiec diocese on the basis of the activities of the Diocesan Church Music Commission in 2019–2020. There was an hour-long lunch break after the second session.

The third session of the conference began with a lecture by Anna Gembalska-Krym MA, who presented the current state of research and development plans for the Organological Archive that was established as a research and development facility at the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice. This way, an impor-

NR 4/2021 ______ 167



tant information about the existence of the Archive and the possibilities of using its resources was conveyed to the conference participants. The second speaker was Kazimierz Cieplik from Lubin, who discussed *Spiegel* instruments in the churches of Wielkopolska. Then, the Assistant Professor at the Department of Musicology of the University of Opole, dr Andrzej Prasał, took the floor. He devoted his speech to the organs from Opole Silesia portrayed in the journal Zeitschrift für Instrumentenbau. The next speaker was Wolfgang Brylla MA from Zielona Góra, who presented a lecture entitled "The Construction of the Organ in Komprachcice in 1937 in the Light of Company and Parish Documents". The next speaker at the conference was another student of musicology in Opole, Paweł Pasternak from Tarnów. He discussed the proposal to develop a new, modern catalogue of the Schlag und Söhne instruments, which was met with the interest of the participants. Rev. dr hab. Franciszek Koenig, Professor at the University of Opole was the penultimate speaker. He spoke about the changes in the Silesian organ construction in the 20s and 30s of the 20th century taking the instruments of the Gliwice diocese as an example. The last speaker was dr Michał Duźniak with a lecture on the translocation of organs to the city of Bielsko-Biała and their importance for the local environment. This lecture was followed by an almost hour-long discussion summarizing all the issues raised during the speeches. The conference ended before 18:00.

As part of the conference, it was also possible to purchase the latest books published and CDs released by the Faculty of Theology of the University of Opole Publishing House, SINDRUK-DIMK and by the publishing house of the Academy of Music in Katowice.

Franciszek Koenig