



THE  
BELLE SKINNER COLLECTION  
OF  
OLD MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS



A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE  
COMPILED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF  
WILLIAM SKINNER

Mr. William Skinner

*Winstanahurst*

*Holyoke, Mass.*

1933

## ORGAN

GERMAN

NICOLAUS MANDERSCHIEDT

1625

The famous Nicolaus Manderscheidt of Nürnberg (1580-1662) is the maker of this rare instrument. Early in the seventeenth century he became organ builder for the Town Council of Nürnberg and evidently was held in high esteem in the town from the fact that in 1654 his portrait was engraved in copper by George Walch, the noted engraver. A photograph of the old engraving hangs in this collection. It shows Manderscheidt at the age of seventy-five, a kindly face, framed in the high ruff of the period and holding in his hand an organ pipe. Below the portrait, within the frame, is the verse:

*Hier hat Apelles Hand den Kunst-Mann fürgestellt,  
In deszen Angesicht die Redligkeit sich zeigt:  
An dessen wercken sich Euterpe selbst erfreuet:  
Daher ein guter Nahm Ihm bleibet in der Welt.*

*Geborn den 2 April 1580 Starb den 2 April 1662*

A small worn copy of this same picture is still to be seen, pasted on one of the supports within the organ case.

The case is of oak, carved with acanthus leaf scrolls in high relief. At either side is a carved, removable panel with protruding cherub head. The doors are painted with armorial bearings: at the left, a black Maltese cross on a grey shield, and at the right, the arms of the Kolner family. Above the case are bellows worked by hinged levers from the side and also by hinged pedals beneath the case. There are one hundred and eighty-eight lead and wooden pipes, each engraved with the letters N. M., the initials of the maker. The name-board is carved in relief:

N. M. A $\bar{n}$ o MDCXXV

Below is the keyboard of black naturals with fronts of parchment scroll-work, and ebony sharps with boxwood tops. On the left side are four iron levers working the stops, which are inscribed in German:

Octava 2fs

Gedact 4fs

Gedact 8fs

Gedact 16fs



No. 2

This organ was purchased by Miss Skinner from the Karl Freund collection, at the sale held at the American Art Galleries, New York, March 1916. It was illustrated and described in the catalogue under No. 520: "Seventeenth Century Pipe Organ from the Château de Rethel (Ardennes)". Following is a note taken from the catalogue: "This organ was built in 1625 by the famous Nicolaus Manderscheidt of Nuremberg, the founder of a distinguished family of organ builders who particularly excelled in the construction of these small, or as we should now call them, 'cabinet' organs. The one here displayed was built to the order of a wealthy Nuremberg burgher, named Kolner, for his private oratory. His armorial bearings testifying to his descent from a Knight of Malta are on the front of the case. The organ was found by its present owner in a château in the Ardennes region of France, where it had been for the last two hundred years. It is supposed that it formed part of the spoils of the Palatinate, having been seized by an officer of the French King Louis XIV during the Thirty Years' War. It was while in place in this château in 1858 that M. Saint-Saëns played upon this organ and was delighted with its mellow tone. It is this marvellously rich mellowness of tone, indeed, that is one of the old instrument's most notable characteristics."

Compass: four octaves, short two semitones, from the second D below to the second C above middle C.

Height, 6 ft. 10 in.; width, 3 ft. 6½ in.; depth, 2 ft. 4 in.





No. 2