

Aantekeningen uit de nalatenschap van

drs. J.F. van Os

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Het volgende is ontleend aan een folder *Frinton Free Church Connaught Avebue, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex 013 9PW, England, The Willis Organ, History and Speecification* (kennelijk bestemd voor eventuele kopers)

HISTORY

The instrument was built by Henry Willis at his Rotunda Organ Works in the Old Kent Road in South London for Eld Lane Baptist Church Colchester. It was installed there in June 1876, where it served for 40 years. It was built as a single manual instrument with pedals, with three of its seven ranks of pipes enclosed in a swell box. After the turn of the century, the Eld Lane church members decided to redesign the front of the interior of their church, and at the same time to replace the organ. When the change was finally made in April 1916, the Willis organ was sold to the Frinton Free Church, where it was installed in September of that year. It was subsequently rebuilt by Bishop & Son of Ipswich in 1978. At this point the second manual was added to incorporate all the pipes enclosed in the swell box. Also a two-rank Mixture and a Gemshorn were added to the Swell, and the Claribel Flute to the Great.

The instrument has remarkable tonal qualities resulting from the musical "stable" from whence it came. Henry Willis, the original builder, seemed to have unique skills in the construction and voicing of organ pipes, and although a further three generations of Willis have continued the family firm, the organs made by "Father Willis" were reckoned the finest of all, with unsurpassed tonal quality to this day. It is a tribute to the instrument that although comparatively small in size, it has effectively led the singing of the 400-strong congregation until this day.

The church is in many ways reluctant to part with it, but with the redesigning of the sanctuary it has been decided to replace it.

Although the tracker action is showing wear, it is potentially a very desirable instrument. It has been regularly maintained, and is in full working order. The pipework is unique, and in many ways irreplaceable, and with renovation of the action, the organ has much life in it yet.

It would be satisfying to see it sold to someone who would retain it as a complete instrument, even with possible enlargement, rather than being broken up just for its ranks of pipes.

SPECIFICATION

Swell organ	Great Organ	Pedal
Cornopean 8 ft	Fifteenth 2 ft	Bourdon 16 ft
*Mixture 11	Principal 4 ft	
*Gemshorn 4 ft	*Claribel Flute 8 ft	Couplers
Viola da Gamba 8 ft (to Tenor Q	Open Diapason 8 ft	Swell to Great
Lieblich Gedact 8 ft		Swell to Pedal
		Great to Pedal

Manuals: Two of 61 (veranderd in 56) notes,
Pedals: Radiating and concave, 30 notes - CCC to F

* These stops added later by Bishop & Son, all other pipework original by Father Willis.

Balanced Swell
Two trundle toe pistons
Tracker action throughout
Electric Blower

Ook nog drie foto's, orgel en klaviatuur. Zie ook de foto van de situatie in Aalst, Geref.Gem.