

Hermann Kröger

Founded/Born

??? - 1671

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Hermann Kröger, also known as Harmen Kröger, was a notable German organ builder based in Nienburg/Weser during the 17th century, with his work significantly influencing the Oldenburg organ landscape. Although details about his life are sparse, it is known that he worked in several regions, including Oldenburg, Minden, and Celle, before settling in Nienburg around 1655. Kröger was initially associated with the organ builder Cordt Kröger, possibly his relative, and completed Cordt's work on the Lambertikirche in Oldenburg after his death.

Kröger is particularly recognized for his advancements in the design and construction of Springladen (spring chests) and for building organs with independent pedal towers, a feature that added distinctiveness to his instruments. His craftsmanship included intricate knorpelstil carvings above the Brustwerk doors and the use of pure lead for metal pipes, often adorned with painted grotesque faces on the largest pipes. His legacy is also linked to his master apprentice, Berendt Hus, who later became the teacher of the famous Arp Schnitger. Kröger's work bridged the brabantisch-norddeutsche organ-building traditions of the Scherer and Fritzsche families, passing these techniques to Schnitger, thus influencing the course of North German organ building. His most complete surviving work is the organ in St. Laurentius, Langwarden.

Sources

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann_Kr%C3%B6ger

Langwarden, St. Laurentius

Langwarder Straße, 26969 Langwarden, Germany



Builder	H. Kröger
Year	1650
Period/Style	Baroque
Stops	20
Keyboards	2+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Tuning	1/5 Comma Meantone at 466 Hz

Description

The St. Laurentius Church in Langwarden, built around 1150, is a significant historical site with a rich history as a medieval market church. The church is notable for its original construction using Eifeltuffstein and its well-preserved interior, which features elements from the 17th century, including a remarkable organ. This organ, constructed in 1650-1651 by Hermann Kröger and his apprentice Berendt Hus, is one of the most significant historical instruments in the region. It retains its original spring chests and has a distinctive Baroque style, reflecting the craftsmanship of the workshop where the renowned organ builder Arp Schnitger apprenticed.

Over the centuries, the organ has undergone several restorations, including significant work by Arp Schnitger in 1705, who added new mixtures and overhauled the reeds. Further restorations occurred in the 19th and 20th centuries, with the most recent comprehensive restoration by Jürgen Ahrend Orgelbau in 2015. This restoration aimed to preserve the organ's historical integrity while ensuring its continued use in the church's liturgical and musical life. The St. Laurentius organ is not only a vital part of the church's heritage but also an outstanding example of 17th-century organ building.

Stoplist/Disposition

Hauptwerk	Brustwerk	Pedal
Gedact 8'	Gedact 8'	Untersatz 16'
Quintadena 8'	Blockfloete 4'	Praestant 8'
Praestant 4'	Schweizerpfeife 4'	Octav 4'
Spietzpfeife 4'	Octav 2'	Bauernfloete 2'
Scharf Quint 3'	Cymbel 2f	Posaune 16'
Octav 2'	Krumhorn 8'	
Nassat Quint 1 1/2'		
Mixtur 3f		
Trompete 8'		

Additional: II/I (shove-coupler)

Sources

<https://nomine.net/orgel/langwarden-st-laurentius/>