

Johann Martin Schmid

Founded/Born

1847 - 1923

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Johann Martin Schmid (1847-1923) was a prominent German organ builder who continued the legacy of the Schmid family in Oldenburg, following in the footsteps of his father, Johann Claussen Schmid, and grandfather, Gerhard Janssen Schmid. From 1881 until 1919, he managed the family business before it was taken over by the Rohlfing company. Even after the company's transition, Schmid remained active in the field, continuing to undertake various organ modifications until his death.

Schmid was responsible for numerous new organ constructions and modifications, particularly in the Oldenburg region, with over 60 projects attributed to him. His approach often involved significant alterations to historical organs, adapting their design to contemporary tastes. However, these changes, which included adding more fundamental registers to soften the sound of older instruments, are often viewed critically today. His work on the organ by Joachim Kayser in Hohenkirchen is a notable example, where his modifications replaced the original bright and distinctive tonal character with a more subdued sound. Despite the controversy surrounding his work, Schmid played a crucial role in shaping the organ landscape of his time in the Oldenburg area.

Sources

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_Martin_Schmid

Elsfleth, St. Nicolai

Alte Straße, 26931 Elsfleth, Germany



Builder	J. M. Schmid
Year	ca. 1836
Period/Style	Classical
Stops	20
Keyboards	2+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical

Description

The St. Nicolai Church in Elsfleth, originally expanded in the early 16th century, is an architectural rarity due to its "Winkelhakenbau" design, where a second nave was added at a right angle to the original structure in 1690. This type of church design is rare in Germany, with only five other known examples. The church's organ history is significant, beginning with a small positive organ in 1692, which was later replaced by a larger instrument built by Christian Vater in 1721. This organ suffered considerable damage over the years, leading to its replacement in 1836 by a new organ built by Gerhard Janssen Schmid, featuring a classicist façade.

The Schmid organ has undergone several modifications and restorations over the years. A major overhaul in 1909 by Johann Martin Schmid introduced significant changes, including the addition of new stops and the transition to pneumatic action in the pedal. Subsequent restorations, particularly in 1955 by Alfred Führer and most recently in 2016 by Martin ter Haseborg, aimed to restore the organ closer to its original 1836 disposition while addressing issues like wind pressure and pipe damage. Today, the organ remains a cherished historical instrument, reflecting the church's rich musical heritage.

Stoplist/Disposition

Hauptwerk	Brustwerk	Pedal
Quintadena 16'	Liebl. Gedackt 8'	Subbass 16'
Principal 8'	Flöte 4'	Oktavbass 8'
Hohlflöte 8'	Principal 2'	Choralbass 4'
Oktave 4'	Sifflöte 1'	Nachthorn 2'
Rohrflöte 4'	Sesquialtera 2f	Posaune 16'
Nasard 2 2/3'	Scharff 3f	
Waldflöte 2'		
Mixtur 3-4f		
Trompete 8'		

Additional: BW/HW, HW/Ped

Sources

<https://nomine.net/orgel/elsfleth-st-nicolai/>