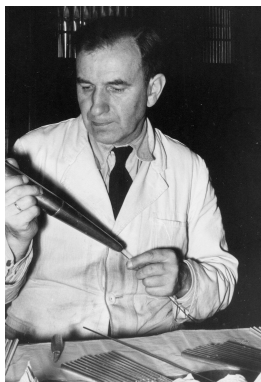


Paul Ott



Founded/Born

-

1903 - 1991

Closed/Death

Still active?

no

Description

Paul Ott (1903–1991) was a German organ builder and a significant figure in the 20th-century organ movement, known for his role in reviving pre-romantic organ building principles. Originally trained as a carpenter, Ott later pursued organ building, apprenticing with the Oettinger firm Steinmeyer and later working independently in Göttingen. By the early 1930s, he had established his own workshop and began to gain recognition for his work, particularly for his use of the Schleiflade (slider chest) with mechanical action, which was a return to traditional organ-building techniques that had been largely abandoned during the Romantic era.

Ott's career was marked by both new constructions and significant restorations of historic organs, especially in Northern Germany. His approach, while innovative in its time, has been criticized posthumously for sometimes altering the historical integrity of the instruments he restored, as he prioritized the ideals of the neobaroque style over the preservation of the original conditions of the organs. Despite this, Ott's influence was considerable, particularly in the mid-20th century when his workshop was at its peak. The legacy of his work is complex, with some of his students, like Jürgen Ahrend and Rudolf Janke, later reversing some of his modifications to better preserve the historical authenticity of the instruments.

Sources

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Ott_\(Orgelbauer\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Ott_(Orgelbauer))

Neuenkirchen, St. Johannis

Dorfstraße, 21640 Neuenkirchen, Germany



Builder	P. Ott
Year	1937
Period/Style	Romantic
Stops	10
Keyboards	1+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Tuning	Equal at 440 Hz

Description

The organ in St. Johannis Church, Neuenkirchen, was built in 1936/1937 by the Göttingen-based organ builder Paul Ott. As a prominent figure in the "Orgelbewegung" (a neobaroque reform movement in organ building), Ott focused on constructing purely mechanical organs, a departure from the pneumatic and electric techniques that had been prevalent in the 19th and early 20th centuries. This organ is one of the earliest examples of newly constructed mechanical organs in Germany during the 20th century.

With its eight registers on a single manual and pedal, the organ in Neuenkirchen is a valuable example of the craftsmanship and philosophy of the Orgelbewegung. It stands as an important historical document, preserving both the technical and tonal characteristics of that period, making it a significant piece of heritage worthy of preservation.

Stoplist/Disposition

Manual	Pedal
Gedackt 8'	Quintadena 16'
Blockflöte 4'	Gedackt 8'
Prinzipal 2'	Blockflöte 4'
Quinte 1 1/3'	Cornet 2'
Zimbel 2f	
Regal 8'	

Additional:

Sources

<https://nomine.net/orgel/neuenkirchen-altes-land-st-johannis/>

Winsen (Luhe), St. Marien

St. Marien-Kirche, Rathausstraße 1, 21423 Winsen (Luhe), Germany



Builder	P. Ott
Year	1960
Period/Style	Neo-Baroque
Stops	39
Keyboards	3+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical

Description

In 1960, the St. Marien Church in Winsen saw the installation of a new organ built by the renowned organ manufacturer Paul Ott from Göttingen. This organ, housed within a church dating back to the 13th century, replaced previous instruments, including one from the 17th century by Magnus Grimm and another from the 19th century by Furtwängler. The decision for a new organ was driven by the existing one becoming too repair-prone. As part of a significant renovation of the church, all galleries were removed, and an asymmetrical facade was chosen for the organ on the north side, allowing for enhanced musical collaboration with choirs and brass ensembles. This design and mechanical setup from the 1960s reflected the Neobaroque revival in organ construction, emphasizing mechanical action which turned out to be fortuitous for its musical capabilities.

By 2004, however, the organ required substantial refurbishment to address issues like the detaching of wooden pipes and collapsing facade pipes. The renovation was undertaken by Schuke (Potsdam) focusing on preserving the existing sound while enhancing it where possible. This involved retuning noisy principals and in some cases, rebuilding them to maintain the narrow scaling that defines the organ's sound while introducing a more vocal quality. Technical adjustments made the organ's action significantly lighter and more sensitive. Changes to the disposition included replacing the Terzzimbel in the main work with a three-rank Cornett and slightly reducing the sharpness of the high mixtures, with a minor increase in wind pressure. These renovations ensured the organ not only maintained its historical integrity but also improved its functionality and sound for contemporary use.

Stoplist/Disposition

Rückpositiv	Hauptwerk	Brustwerk	Pedal
Gedackt 8'	Quintade 16'	Holzgedackt 8'	Prinzipal 16'
Holzflöte 8'	Prinzipal 8'	Flöte 4'	Subbaß 16'
Prinzipal 4'	Weitgedackt 8'	Oktave 2'	Oktave 8'
Flöte 4'	Oktave 4'	Terz 1 3/5'	Gedackt 8'
Waldflöte 2'	Flöte 4'	Quinte 1 1/3'	Oktave 4'
Nasat 1 1/3'	Nasat 2 2/3'	Zimbel 3f	Nachthorn 1'
Oktave 1'	Oktave 2'	Vox humana 8'	Rauschpfeife 2f
Sesquialter 2f	Kornett 3f		Mixtur 4f
Scharff 4-6f	Mixtur 6f		Posaune 16'
Dulzian 16'	Trompete 8'		Trompete 8'
Krummhorn 8'			Schalmey 4'

Additional: HW/BW, HW/RP, HW/Ped, RP/Ped, Tremulant RP, Tremulant BW

Sources

<https://nomine.net/orgel/winsen-st-marien/>