

This instrument, which we have been lucky enough to secure on long-term loan for Lufton Church, is numbered Opus 859. It was built by August Späth (1908-1979) of Freiburger Orgelbau. The company was founded in 1834, although the Späth family had been known for at least a century before that as instrument makers, which included organs.

August's father, Franz Xavier (1859-1940) was appointed organ builder to the Imperial German Court and to the Papal Court. The company has built instruments throughout Germany and Austria, and now has expanded world-wide, in the last few years building instruments in Denmark, Canada, America, China, and Russia, and two in Ireland, as well as a very small number in this country. This instrument was one of the last August built before his death.

His son Hartwig, and now his son Tilmann, the next two generations, are continuing to create instruments in the classic European tradition, with mechanical action, light voicing on low wind pressure, and hand-carved and beautifully designed case-work. This is one of only eleven Späth/Freiburger instruments in the U.K., and the only one in the South West.

SPECIFICATION:

MANUAL (C-f3, 54 notes, divided b/c)

PEDAL (C-d1, 27 notes)

Tuning: Kirnberger III

Holzgedeckt 8'

Rohrflöte 4'

Prinzipal 2'

Nazard 2 2/3'

Pedal Sordun 16'

Pedal coupled to Manual

Further details can be found at:

National Pipe Organ Register N08910,

www.freiburgerorgelbau.de,

The Classical Organ in Britain, Vol II, pg. 36.