

ARNAUT DE ZWOLLE -

Burgundian polymath at the Court of Philip the Good, mentioned twice in the accounts of the Duke:

- 1432 identified as both a medical professor and astronomer
- 1454 his title is given as "maistre en medecine et en astrologie" and his residence is given as Dijon. He was paid 1000 francs for a work on planetary motions
- † 1466 Paris (F:) of the plague.

Arnaut's treatise on instruments, also written or copied by anonymous scribes c1436-1454, contains one of the earliest known European treatises on organ building. The manuscript is now held at the Paris Bibliothèque Nationale (MS latin 7295).

It was written in Dijon but only ever in draft form. It contains 139 folios, of which 24 discuss musical instruments. The contents are very disorganized, with many incomplete texts, numerous notes in different hands, and diagrams appearing without any apparent organizational plan. It also contains such disparate material as astronomical texts on planetary orbits, Johannis de Muris' *Liber proportionum musicalium*, instructions on the construction of clocks, sundials, and various machines. The texts on musical instruments are found on ff.111r-135r and written in four hands: A was the scribe for ff.128r-132r, while the remainder were written by anonymous scribes from the second half of the 15thc.

Ten organs are described, of which two are [portatives](#) and one is a [positive](#). The others are presumably large positives or gallery organs, and six of these are identified explicitly: Salins; Saint Cyr [Nevers?]; Cordeliers; [Dijon, Notre Dame 1350](#); organ of the Domenical Mass; Dei custodientes. The first four of these are [Blockwerks](#) as specified by Arnaut, who lists the ranks they contain.

The contents of the folios concerning organs are as follows:

f.123v-124r: Composition of a positive organ "whose sweetness cannot be matched under the sun....;" accumulating ranks at the octave; f-f³, 195 pipes

f.127r: Length and width (scaling) of pipes of the Dei custodientes organ; the reed pipe of F.

f.127v: Measurements of some pipes of this organ [Dei custodientes]

f. 129r: Diagram of organ and clavicord compass: B-f², comprising barduni (lowest octave), naturales (middle octave), supernaturales (upper octave); diagram of an organ pipe, with description of measurements

f.130r: Construction of Organ Chests. The lower surfaces of two chests are depicted, one with a central mitred façade flanked by flats of longer pipes: B-a² (façade depicted on the following folio); the other with pipes of gradually descending lengths towards the treble, B-f². (The nomenclature is interpreted from Arnaut's designations, as the octave levels are not known); double bellows for portatives

f.130v: Formula for pipe metal

f.131r: Mitred facade, action and keyboard of an organ, B-f².

f.131v: Compositions of three organs, the middle one labeled Salins

f. 131 bis: Description of tenor pipes on Saint Cyr organ; three ways of playing the Cordeliers organ; 5 separable stops on the organ for the “misse Domini” (Lord’s Mass), with divided principals (half stops?), 2 quints and an octave

ff. 132v-133r: Disposition of the furnishings of the old organ at Notre Dame, Dijon; compass B-a³. The ranks are divided into three sections: Principals (including fundamental and octave ranks); Furnitures (superoctave and quint ranks) and Upperwork (more superoctave and quint ranks). There are 8 ranks at B and 24 ranks at a³.

ff. 133v-134r: Specification of another organ, F (5 ranks)-f³(21 ranks), showing the use of tierce ranks in the upperwork. This is the earliest evidence for a Terzzimbel.

f. 134v: Measurements of a flute stop at Notre Dame, Dijon

f. 135r: Construction of bellows for the organ of Notre Dame, Dijon

The three-fold chorus division (Principal, Fourniture and Upperwork) delineated by the organ specifications was used by Hendrik van den Houwe on his Rückpositive at Malines, St. Jean. It is also documented on instruments in [Nürnberg, St. Sebald](#), (H. Traxdorf, 1439-41), Koblenz, St. Florian, (1467), and [Hagenau, St. Georg 1491](#).

[Theophilus](#)

[Anonymous of Bern](#)

Arnolt Schlick

[Halberstadt](#)