

## GEORGIUS -

9<sup>th</sup>c Venetian Priest, the first named organ builder in the Western world after the fall of Rome.

Emperor Louis the Pious commissioned Georgius to build an organ at [Aix-la-Chapelle](#), Court in the year 826. Several sources report that he was first brought to Louis at Ingelheim, and that the king then sent him on to Aix and authorized his treasurer to provide whatever was needed, because "it was something that had not been in use previously." It is not known where Georgius learned the craft of organ building; Venice was a dependency of Constantinople in the 9<sup>th</sup>c, so he may have learned the Byzantine style first hand in that city. However both Eginhard and Fulda report that Georgius constructed a hydraulic organ ("hydraulica"). He might therefore have learned about organ building directly from a Greek scientific treatise, such as Hero of Alexandria's *Pneumatics*, and built an hydraulis rather than a Byzantine bellows organ. It is not known whether Georgius' reputation motivated the Emperor to summon him to Aix or whether he volunteered his services to build the organ, but he was eagerly received by Louis. Georgius' organ was a source of great prestige for the Frankish court, as documented in laudatory poems by Ermold le Noir and Walahfrid Strabo. Caffi postulates that Georgius also built the organ of Grado (on a Venetian lagoon - This "most excellent and marvelous" instrument was destroyed in the pillage of the Patriarch of Aquileia in 1022.)