

A Swiss Benedictine scribe (Notker Balbulus?) reported in the 9thc that the King of Constantinople sent an organ to Charlemagne. If Notker's date is wrong, this may simply be a description of the 757 organ. The report is sometimes questioned by scholars as possibly hyperbolic or psalmodic and thought to be a gloss of the 757 history. Presumably the 812 organ was a bellows organ; it is detailed as having bronze (copper?) pipes, bellows of bull's leather, and 3 sound effects (registrations?): the rumbling of thunder, the trembling of the lyre, and the tinkling of cymbala.

Organ by [Georgius](#) which arrived in the year 826, according to 9thc chronicles. Eginhard says it was constructed "in the Greek manner" with "wonderful art." It could imitate thunder, the lyre and the cymbal, presumably through stop-control, although this might have referred to its bass, middle and treble ranges. It may have been an hydraulis, following, and possibly challenging, the technology of the 757 organ at Aix-la-Chapelle (probably a bellows organ) and the instrument reported in 812 (perhaps a late description of the 757 instrument, but which clearly identifies a bellows organ). If an hydraulis, the 826 instrument could have been acquired to demonstrate superior technology and greater power, properties not offered by the Byzantine organ with bellows and no stop separation. The interest aroused at the time was great, perhaps partly due to lingering memories of the 757/812 instrument(s), and partly because it offered a different technology.

The hyperbole, a common feature in organ reporting of this era, ran to claims of a sound so ravishing that a woman "died in transports of delight" from hearing the organ. The extent to which the 826 instrument was an important symbol of regal power in the culture of its day is shown in this poem to honor Louis (son of Charlemagne):

*Organa quin etiam, quae numquam Francia crevit, / unde Pelasga tument
regna superba nimis, / et quis te solis, Caesar, superasse putabat /
Constantinopolis, nunc Aquis aula tenet*

[Even organs - which had not yet been seen in the Frankish Kingdom, in which the pride of the Greeks swelled inordinately, and was the only reason they felt superior to you, Caesar, in Constantinople - are now possessed by the court of Aachen.]