

PAPER PIPES - [cardboard; papier-mâché &c.]

paper and cardboard have been used, infrequently, for the manufacture of organ pipes. ([materials used in medieval pipe making](#)). It offers some advantages in working but is more susceptible than metal to aging, fire and water damage. The earliest evidence is from an organ depicted in an Urbino *intarsia* (1476) that clearly had paper [cardboard] pipes and shows the name Giovanni Castellano. Also from 1476 a letter has survived recording the fact that Giovanni da Gaeta (Giovanni Castellano?) was called the "master of organs with paper pipes" and had made an organ for King Ferdinand of Naples. The 1492 inventory of Lorenzo il Magnifico's estate mentions an organ by Giovanni Castellano with cardboard pipes that was "well made." A 3-rank positive of 1494 by Laurentius Papiensis now belongs to the Museo Civico, Venice.

The history of paper and cardboard as a pipe material does not stop there: Adlung mentions it in the 18thc and in the early 20thc reputable builders (e.g. Welte) were using it, in this case even for reed resonators in Freiburg/Breisgau in early 20th century.