

Crespin Carlier

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(*b* Laon, c1560; *d* before 1640). French organ builder. He was resident in Lille (at that time Flemish) by 1589, and may have been related to Erasmus Carlier (known to have been an organist in Lille in 1552). The style of Crespin Carlier's organs suggests the influence of the school of Van Halen and Isoore in Saint Omer (then in the southern Netherlands).

Until 1600 he worked exclusively in the southern Netherlands (Dunkirk, Saint Omer, Kortrijk, Ghent, Namur and Hesdin). In 1600 Titelouze invited him to Rouen to alter the cathedral organ there which had been built in 1491–3 and 1515–18. Carlier subsequently worked on other Rouen churches (St Sauveur, St Michel, St Jean, St Laurent, St André, St Ouen and St Nicaise) and produced important instruments for the cathedrals of Poitiers, Tours, Chartres, Soissons and Laon.

After 1600 he worked only rarely in the southern Netherlands (Antwerp Cathedral, 1601; St Salvator, Bruges, 1618) but worked in St Denis, Gisors, Saint Quentin, and from 1631 in Paris (St Jacques-de-la-Boucherie, convent of the Grands-Augustins and St Nicolas-des-Champs).

With J. and M. Langhedul, he introduced the superior Flemish type of organ to France, supposedly in collaboration with Titelouze, and so developed an instrument which formed the basis of the French classical organ. Carlier's influence was enhanced by the fact that the Rouen Cathedral organ which he had somewhat remodelled in 1600 was considered to be 'la première orgue de France'.

Carlier himself, when in St Denis, was described as 'le plus excellent faiseur d'orgues de l'Europe'. Among his pupils were V. De Héman of Hesdin (his son-in-law), William Lessely (later known as Guillaume Lesselier) of Aberdeen, who took over Carlier's business in Rouen, Waingnon of Liège and Thierry of Paris, Carlier's successor there in 1635.

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De Héman

Guy Bourlignieux

French family of organ builders. Valéran De Héman (*b* Hesdin, Pas de Calais, 1584; *d* Paris, 1641) was a pupil and son-in-law of Crespin Carlier; he was acquainted with Mersenne, Titelouze and Charles Racquet, organist of Notre Dame. He built new organs at St Jean-le-Marché in Troyes (1610–11), at Ste Catherine, Honfleur (1612); Meaux Cathedral (1627); in Paris at St Martin-des-Champs (1618), St Jean-en-Grève (1625), St Honoré and St Thomas-du-Louvre; and at Bordeaux Cathedral (1631–3). He also carried out a large number of repairs, for example in Rouen at St Jean (1607), St Vivien (1608), St Maclou (1610–11) and the cathedral (1614); in Troyes at St Nicolas (1615–19) and St Jacques-aux-Nonnains (1623); in Bordeaux at St Seurin (1630–32); and in Paris at Notre Dame (1610, 1616), the church of the Cordeliers (1618), St Séverin (1626) and St Jacques-de-l'Hôpital (1610, 1613). Valéran was one of the greatest French organ builders of the first half of the 17th century. Pierre Thierry, Pierre Pescheur and François Ducastel were among his pupils.

Valéran's nephews François De Héman (*b* 1608; *d* Paris, 1652), Jean De Héman (*b* Hesdin, 1603; bur. Cherbourg, 29 Feb 1660) and Louis De Héman (1601–44) worked together. Jean restored the organs at St Germain at Châlons-sur-Marne (with Louis, 1630), at the cathedrals of Troyes (1644–5 and 1653), Le Mans (with François, 1647) and Chartres (1649), and at St Jean at Soissons (1652); he also repaired the organ at St Etienne-du-Mont, Paris (with Pierre Desenclos, 1656). He built new organs at Ivry-sur-Seine (with Louis, 1641); Mitry-Mory (with Louis, 1646–51); St Médard, Paris (with François, 1646–8); at the convents of the Cordeliers in Vire (with François and Jean de Villers, 1631) and the Augustinians in Paris (with Louis and François, 1643); at St Merri in Paris (with François, 1647–50); and at La Trinité in Cherbourg (1659, with Jacques Lefèvre, who completed it in 1661). Jean and François also worked on Valéran's organ at St Jean-le-Marché, Troyes (together in 1642, François in 1644–5 and Jean in 1654).

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Pescheur

Pierre Hardouin

French family of organ builders. They worked in Paris during the 17th century. Nicolas Pescheur (*b* Paris, 1555; *d* Paris, 1616) was the son of a merchant from the quarter of St Germain-des-Prés. He probably trained at first with the organ builder Raoul Bourdet, and then with Jan Langhedul during their stay in Paris (1585–90). In partnership with Claude Danyon, he worked at Chaource in Burgundy. After returning to Paris, he pursued a modest career combining organ building with the post of organist at St Sulpice.

From 1610, enriched by the teaching of Carlier, he entrusted this work to his sons. Of his four sons from his marriage to Catherine Henry, a musician's daughter, two became organ builders. Pierre Pescheur (*b* Paris *c*1590; *d* Paris, 1637) was taught by his father Nicolas and then by Paul Maillard. He learnt organ building in the Titelouze style with Valéran De Héman in 1610–12, and built organs to commissions his father had obtained, eventually succeeding him.

After some smaller projects, he built the organ in Amiens Cathedral (1620–24), and in Paris at St Paul (1623) and St Gervais (1628), where pipework survives. The organs at Aubervilliers (*c*1630; pipework survives) and St Etienne-du-Mont, Paris (1631–6), were his greatest instruments.

He married a mason's daughter, and they had one son, Charles, who became a painter. With his master, De Héman, he founded the classical Parisian school of organ building. His most prominent pupil was Pierre Desenclos. Aubin Pescheur (*b* *c*1595; *d* after 1630), another son of Nicolas Pescheur, is only known as an employee of Maillard (Rennes, 1628).

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