

St John's Parish Church



Gt: 8,8,8,4,4,2, Sw: 8,8,8,4,8, Ped: 16.

The Royal Chapel of St. John features every year in the Tynwald Ceremony, an tradition of ancient origin in which the laws passed in that year are proclaimed to the people in both Manx and English. Moses Morgan rebuilt the present instrument in 1907, from an earlier organ by R. Jackson & Sons of Liverpool (originally at a cost of £150.00.) At this time, the Jackson organ was moved down from what had been a damp gallery.

Its casework is remarkably simple, effective and one of the most obviously 'gothic' in design. The display pipes are unusual in being of pipe metal (an alloy of lead and tin) rather than zinc, and a noteworthy feature of the design is the 4 carved heads, just above the openings for the display pipes. The positioning of the organ is less happy, in that it covers some very attractive stained glass, and its appearance is marred by white paint, and further spoiled by the 2,



white-painted 'galleries' which were added on each side of it, to hold television cameras during the Tynwald Ceremony of 1979, since when they have held nothing but clutter. (A much more satisfactory arrangement would be to move the organ into the West gallery, from which position it would look much more impressive and speak more clearly down the church, freeing the north transept.)

The swell-box is very small, and shows every sign of being a 'tenor C' swell (i.e.

without pipes for the bottom octave) so the origins of the instrument could well be mid 1800s or earlier. Morgan added a Stopped Bass to the Swell, and replaced 2 of the original swell stops with a Salicional and Celeste. Peter Jones replaced the original tenor C trumpet by a new, full compass stop in the 1990s. This stop has a half-length bass, which was necessary because of restricted height in the swell-box. The mechanism is mechanical throughout, aside from the pedals, which are pneumatic.

