



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Victor I. Zuck Electronic Organ Collection

NMAH.AC.1489

Archives Center Staff

2021

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Victor I. Zuck Electronic Organ Collection
Date:	1935-1964
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1489
Creator:	Zuck, Victor I. , 1908-2004 (Donor) Zuck, Nathalie A. Peterson, d. 2013 (Donor)
Extent:	1.5 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Victor I. Zuck and Nathalie A. Zuck, January 1994.

Provenance

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Culture and the Arts in October 2017.

Separated Materials

Materials in the Division of Culture and the Arts

An Everett/Wurlitzer Orgatron Model 4600, Serial #18421 made in 1952. See accession 1994.0035.01.

Preferred Citation

Victor I. Zuck Electronic Organ Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Biographical

Victor I. Zuck was born in Hagerstown, Maryland on January 24, 1908 to Jacob and Ora Turner Zuck. David Zuck, an uncle was an employee with M.P. Moller Company, builders of pipe organs and in the 1920s, introduced Victor to an apprenticeship with organs at Moeller. At Moller, Victor worked under Ted Clark, Raleigh Williams, and Richard Whitelegg. Zuck spent two years, 1930-1931 at the United States Military Academy where he collaborated with Frederick C. Mayers, the organist and choirmaster of the Harmonic Division. Zuck returned to the Moller Company and assumed leadership of the Automatic Player Department, supervising the rebuilding of pipe organs and hand cutting for automatic rolls.

At Moller, Zuck worked with Frederick A. Hoeschke, the musical director. Hoeschke developed the Orgatron, an electrostratic reed organ in 1934. It was manufactured by Everett Piano Company from 1935 to 1941. The Rudolph

Wurlitzer Company secured the patents from Everett in 1945. Wurlitzer produced these instruments and retained the Everett names on some models from 1945 to 1947. Orgatrons continued to be produced into the early 1960s. After the ORgatron was purchased by Wurlitzer, Zuck joined the Wulritzer Company and became superintendent of the organ division and a consultant in research. Zuck held 14 organ-related patents, all assigned to the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company of North Tonawanda, New York. In 1952, Zuck resigned from Wurlitzer and returned to the Moller Company as a sales representative. In 1975, Zuck was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church.

Zuck married Nathalie Peterson, grandniece of Frederick A. Hoeschke in 1937. Zuck died on January 6, 2004.

Source

Automatic Musical Instruments Collectors Association, Honor Roll (https://www.amica.org/files/VICTOR_I_ZUCK.pdf (last accessed on November 15, 2021))

Content Description

Collection documents Victor Zuck's work on developing and selling electronic organs, first with the Everett Piano Company of South Haven, Michigan, and then with the Wurlitzer Organ Company of North Tonawanda, New York.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into one series.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Electronic organ
- Inventors -- 20th century
- Organ (Musical instrument) -- 1900-1960

Types of Materials:

- Photographs -- 20th century

Container Listing

Box 1

Unprocessed material