

**DAUGAVPILS UNIVERSITĀTE**  
**DAUGAVPILS UNIVERSITY**

**VĒSTURE:**  
**AVOTI UN CILVĒKI**

**XXVII**

**HISTORY:**  
**SOURCES AND PEOPLE**

**DAUGAVPILS UNIVERSITĀTE**  
**AKADĒMISKAIS APGĀDS "SAULE"**

2024

Saleniece, I., atb. red. *Vēsture: avoti un cilvēki. XXVII*. Daugavpils: Daugavpils Universitātes Akadēmiskais apgāds "Saule", 2024. 190 lpp.

Daugavpils Universitātes zinātnisko rakstu krājums "Vēsture: avoti un cilvēki" ir anonīmi recenzēts periodisks izdevums ar starptautisku zinātniskās redakcijas kolēģiju. Tā mērķis ir prezentēt aktuālo pētījumu rezultātus vēstures zinātnes, kā arī historiogrāfijas un vēstures palīdzinātņu jomā. Rakstu krājums iznāk vienu reizi gadā latviešu, angļu un krievu valodā.

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#### Makets:

**SIA "AR Drukātava"**

Iekļauts EBSCO datubāzē.

ISSN 978-9934-39-021-0

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Saleniece, I., ed. *History: Sources and People. XXVII*. Daugavpils: Daugavpils University Academic Press “Saule”, 2024. 190 p.

The collection of articles “History: Sources and People” of Daugavpils University is a double-blind peer-reviewed periodical with the international editorial board. It publishes articles aimed at presenting the research findings in the field of history, as well as historiography and auxiliary historical disciplines. It is published once a year in Latvian, English, and Russian.

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Included in EBSCO database.

ISSN 978-9934-39-021-0

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## **Galina Sedova (Nun Euphrosyne)**

### **Organ Master Edouard Schultz: from Dinaburg to Polotsk, the 19th century**

**Key words:** Master Edouard Schultz of Dinaburg, Germans and Latvians in Polotsk, Lutheran church of St. Mary in Polotsk, Architect Paul Max Bertschy, Pastor Carl Felix Bertschy, church organs

#### **Summary**

The article contains information about the organ Master Edouard Schultz from Dinaburg. The history of the migration of Germans and Latvians to Vitebsk and Polotsk is traced, as well as the participation of settlers in the construction of the Riga-Oryol railway in the 19th century. On the example of the Bertschy family – the architect Paul Max and his eldest son, pastor-adjunct Karl Felix, a connection with the Lutheran parish in Polotsk was revealed. In the church of St. Mary, pastor K. F. Bertschy served for a long time. The author set a number of tasks to cover the following issues: the history of the development of church musical instruments in the provinces of Livland and Courland, as well as the study of organ workshops in the Baltic region. An attempt was made to compile a list of the instruments of the Master Edouard Schultz and find the author's hallmark of the master. The article describes the organs in the Catholic churches of Elerne and Svente, for which the church organs by the Master Edouard Schultz from Dinaburg were made. The organs in these churches have been preserved and are in working condition.

#### **Introduction**

The determining factors in the existence and development of the Western Dvina (Daugava) area were the important trade routes between the West and the East. Over time, the importance of the transit territory increased and the lands along the Western Dvina River showed vivid signs of the activity of the population there. Dynamic relations in trade between Western Europe and the Russian Empire had been revitalized by the second half of the 19th century, which was facilitated by the Russian reforms of the 1860s. Against this background, not only economic, but also cultural and historical ties between the cities of Dinaburg (modern Daugavpils) and Polotsk developed quite successfully.

For centuries, believers of various Christian denominations had populated the cities, including Catholics, Orthodox, Old Believers, and Lutherans. Confirmation

of the above is the majestic building of the former Evangelical Lutheran church of St. Mary in Polotsk, which today houses the Museum of Local Lore. But in the 19th century, the church was functioning with an active Lutheran parish of Latvians and Germans located there. The community not only built the church, but also tried to beautify it. It is known that the parishioners of the Lutheran church acquired the organ built by the Master Edouard Schultz from Dinaburg. But the events of the beginning of the 20th century – revolution and devastation – changed the course of peaceful parish life. In the 1920s, the church was closed by the Soviet authorities, and the Bolsheviks used the religious building at their own discretion. Since then, the further fate of the organ of the Lutheran church of St. Mary in Polotsk is unknown.

This article attempts to study the heritage of the Master Edouard Schultz from Dinaburg, who specialized in the manufacture of musical instruments. It was only known that the master made an organ commissioned by the Evangelical Lutheran parish for the church of St. Mary in Polotsk. The following tasks were defined for the study of the problems posed:

- to collect materials dedicated to the organ masters of Livland and Courland;
- to study the sources devoted to materials about the railway lines Dinaburg-Polotsk and Polotsk-Vitebsk of the Riga-Oryol railway;
- get acquainted with the statistical data on the confessional lists of Lutherans, Vitebsk, and Polotsk;
- identify the church organs made by Master E. Schultz, as well as describe them. The discovered information is introduced into scientific circulation for the first time to form materials for the biographical information about the organ Master Edouard Schultz from Dinaburg.

### **Development of the railway in the Western Dvina area**

Several factors influenced the increase in the number of the German and Latvian population in the Vitebsk province:

- construction of the Riga-Oryol railway;
- the events of the Polish uprising of 1863, which prompted the Germans to move to the Vitebsk province as buyers of estates (*Pamjatnaja knizhka* 1886, 96–97). Latvian peasants also moved and created compact settlements there<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> In the context of the dynamic growth of cash nexus in the second half of the 19th century – the beginning of the 20th century, rail transport developed intensively (Malahovska 1998, 250). The construction project of the Riga-Oryol railway began, with the railway direction Dinaburg-Vitebsk. It was implemented in 1863 by English engineers. This railway consisted of several branches, the first – Dinaburg-Polotsk with a length of 151 versts (modern 154.4 km). Funds for the construction were private, and the time of the project transfer to be funded by the state treasury was noted on 15 June 1864 (B.XCVIII 1913, 3). In 1865, the second part of the project was completed – the construction

The state-owned Riga-Oryol railway passed through the territories of the Vitebsk, Kovno (modern Kaunas), Mogilev, Smolensk, and Oryol provinces. The Riga-Dinaburg railway (1858-1861), laid via the ancient trade route along the river the Western Dvina or Daugava was not only a convenient, but also a cheap road to the port of Riga. It contributed to the flourishing of new craft and trade centers, as well as the delivery of agricultural products, encouraging the local population to master the skills of building and operating the railway (Albergs 2010, 9). Of course, the further development of the railway through Polotsk (Riga-Oryol railway) contributed to the development of local infrastructure and an increase in trade turnover. Moreover, the first Riga-Dinaburg railway was eventually extended to Vitebsk (Malahovska 1998, 254).

The rapid development of the railway also developed the infrastructure of the cities of the Baltic region and the Dvina region. The architect Paul Max Bertschy (1840–1911) was directly related to this. Paul Bertschy was the architect of the Dinaburg-Vitebsk Railway Society (1869–1871), he lived in Dinaburg for a short time, then became the chief architect of Libau (modern Liepāja, 1871–1902).

### **Lutheran population of the Vitebsk province**

The confessional picture of the 19th century on the territory of the Vitebsk province was clearly illustrated by statistical information. Until 1862, there were about 12,000 Lutherans in this region, in the towns and villages. But this number also included the Latvian Lutheran parishes of Dinaburg – 10,432, Rezhitsa (modern Rēzekne) – 129, and Lucina (modern Ludza) – 86, in total 10,647 Lutherans (*Pamjātņaja knižhka* 1881, 95). By 1888 their number had risen to 34,223. Thus, the communities grew, but the majority were still Latvian Lutherans from the above parishes. Nevertheless, the railway contributed to the migration of the population from the Baltic region to the Vitebsk province. Out of 22.05% of Protestants, there were 10.158% among Latvians, and 2.262% among Germans. Based on this, in percentage terms, in the Vitebsk province, Protestantism was professed by 1.5% of the population, which amounted to 15,216 people (Latvians – 13,504 and Germans – 1,703) (*Pamjātņaja knižhka* 1886, 95, 125–126). But in the statistical reports, the number of Germans living there was also indicated as 2,076. In this regard, the comment of a Russian official is interesting, who wrote

of a branch line from Polotsk to Vitebsk, about 95 versts (modern 101.34 km), which was completed in 1868. The completion of the railway construction in the Western Dvina area increased the transportation of goods in the direction of Dinaburg-Vitebskat. For comparison, if the goods were sent along the Western Dvina on ships and rafts in the amount of 2,961.912 poods in the sum of 510,872 rubles, then total 45,827.158 poods were transported along the Dinaburg-Vitebsk branch of the railway (Kratkij 1911, 8, 31, 56).



that it was necessary to determine the number of Germans “by a smart way” (Sementovskii 1872).

According to the Statistical Committee for 1893, regarding confessions, there were 543 Lutherans living in the Polotsk district. Also, provincial Vitebsk numbered 1,661 Lutherans. Besides, believers lived in the countryside, where their number was about 1,000 people. The first Evangelical Lutheran communities in Polotsk existed since the 17th century, and permanent Adjuncture (the structure for postgraduate studies) existed since the beginning of the 19th century (Sementovskii 1872). The Lutheran parish of the church of St. Mary was of a mixed type, i. e. it included both urban and rural residents. The parish consisted of 2/3 Latvians, the rest being Germans (Sementovskii 1872).

Accordingly, two Lutheran priests served there, one of them, pastor-preacher Ernst Johann Carrolien (1879–1910), graduated from the Theological Faculty of the University of Dorpat (modern Tartu) and was a teacher of the Vitebsk Women’s Gymnasium (*Pamjatnaja knizhka* 1898, 31; *Album* 1889, 427; *Tartu* 1988, 713; *EAA*, 402 f., 2 n., 1786, 3649 s.). In 1898, the Polotsk Adjuncture of the German-Latvian parish was founded, and pastor-adjunct Carl Felix Bertschy (1866–1919) was appointed there. He took the course of the Theological Faculty of the University of Dorpat (*EAA*, 402 f., 2 n., 1786 s.) and lived in Polotsk, Nizhne-Pokrovskaya Street (Vodneva 2021, 4). As for the Lutheran church of St. Mary, it was built in 1887–1889 from red brick and housed 172 seats. According to the Museum of Local Lore, the Lutheran church in Polotsk was solemnly consecrated in 1888. Probably, in 1892 or 1893, the parish ordered a church organ from Master Edouard Schultz. It is known that the pastor-adjunct lived next to the church in the old parsonage rebuilt in 1902. Pastor Carl Felex Bertschy served in the church until his death in 1919 (Kniazeva 2006, 49, 51–52).

### **Organ masters of Courland and Livland**

The history of the appearance of church organs in Livland goes back for centuries. The tradition survived and had close ties with Germany. This musical wind instrument was part of the church life of the parishes of Riga, Goldingen (modern Kuldīga), Mitava (modern Jelgava), Jakobstadt (modern Jēkabpils) and other cities. A fertile time for the development and distribution of the organ fell on the reign of the Russian Empress Anna Ioannovna. This was actively promoted by the favorite of the Empress, Duke of Courland, Ernst Johann Biron (1690–1772). In 1735 he ordered a polyphonic organ for the palace in Rundāle. It was made by the famous craftsman Johann Heinrich Joachim (1696–1762).

The popularity of the organ grew paving the way for the development of local organ production. In view of the high competition from Germany, the masters began to leave for Courland and Livland, where they created their own organ centers. Such a center was created by Friedrich Weizenborn (1840–1902) in Kreutzburg (modern Krustpils) and Jakobstadt (LNA LVVA, 235. f., 14. apr., 112. l., 562–563. lp.). The future Master E. Schultz belonged to this center.

The surname of organ Masters Schultz can rarely be found in studies devoted to the history of the organ in the Baltic region. But there are no biographical data of the master. Let us turn to the monograph by the art critic Ilma Grauzdiņa (1948–2016), which contains biographical information about the Schultz Masters. For example, Johann Friedrich Schultze (1793–1858) from Paulinzell, Germany. After a while, he continued his work in Courland, in Mitau and Riga. As noted in the sources, J. F. Schultz belonged to a high class of masters. The 26-resonant organ of his work was acquired by the parish of the Riga Reformed church. Another work by J. F. Schultz was the 86 resonant organ (1854) in the church of St. Mary of Lubeck (northern Germany). In the 18th century, Alexander and Christian Schultze, a father and son from Wolmar (modern Valmiera) were known. However, they also belonged to another organ workshop (Grauzdiņa 1987, 35, 66, 70).

But there is an interesting question – how was the Master Schultz from Dinaburg related to the already listed masters? Schultz worked at the end of the 19th century in Dinaburg, and his instruments, according to experts, show the signs of the influence of the organ Master Friedrich Weizenborn, originally from Thuringia, eastern Germany. Subsequently, the master worked in Jakobstadt and Kreutzburg (Gruener). The above masters belonged to other centers.

Since the first half of the 19th century, the center for the creation of organs was Riga (Master August Martin, 1808–1891 from Erfurt), then Libau (Master Karl Hermann) and Jakobstadt (Master Friedrich Weizenborn) followed the rating. Master F. Weizenborn made 85 organs from 1865 to 1894. For example, information about the cost of the organ made by Master F. Weizenborn dated 1899 has been preserved – 600 rubles. And the 8-resonance organ of the Shloka Church (modern Sloka) in Courland, made by the Riga Master August Martin, cost 1,050 rubles in 1863 (Grauzdiņa 1987, 81, 84). The cost of a musical instrument largely depended on the craftsmanship, the prestige of the school, and the sound. Each organ differed in timbre, the number of manuals (keyboards for playing), registers, and windpipes (sound range).

### **Master Edouard Schultz and the Bertschy family**

So, the only thing known about the organ Master Edouard Schultz is that he was from Dinaburg. But who entrusted him with the order for the manufacture of an organ for the Lutheran church of St. Mary in Polotsk? It is highly likely that the Bertschy family could have been involved in this. The Lutheran community in Dinaburg in 1862 was significant, about 3,000 parishioners or 9.8% of the city's inhabitants. The famous artist and architect Paul Max Bertschy worked and lived from 1864 to 1871 in Dinaburg. The Bertschy family professed Lutheranism. As to the head of the Bertschy family, the future architect Paul Max Bertschy was born in Prussia, but due to the high competition in the profession, he left his homeland and connected his life with Livland and Courland where he was known as the author of projects for industrial, public buildings, religious buildings, private houses and as the chief architect of Libau (Lancmanis 2011, 303). Did Paul Max Bertschy design the Lutheran church of St. Mary in Polotsk? It is unknown. But he designed the Lutheran church in Cesvaine in the "rock Neo-Gothic" style in 1879.

In this regard, the question arises, if the Lutheran pastor of the church of St. Mary in Polotsk, Karl Felix Bertschy, was a relative of the famous architect? When studying the biography of the architect, it was confirmed that Paul and Felix were father and son. But due to the different spelling of the names and surnames of Bertschy in Russian official documents of the 19th century, there was confusion about their relationship. Therefore, in order to prevent duplication of errors, several sources in German were taken:

- the form file of the student of the University of Dorpat, Carl Felix Bertschy (EAA, 402 f., 2 n., 1785, 1786 s.);
- a list of pastors of Livland province (*Die evangelischen* 1977).

What is known about the eldest son of the architect Paul Max Bertschy? Carl Felix Bertschy was born on 30 January 1866 in Dinaburg. He graduated from the Libau Nicholas Gymnasium. Then the young man entered the Theological Faculty of the University of Dorpat in 1887 (matrix number 13477). He graduated from the university with a degree in theology in 1893. In 1895, he served as a pastor-adjunct in the church of Marienburg (modern Alūksne), and since 1898 in the church of St. Mary in Polotsk (EAA, 402 f., 2 n., 1785, 1786 s.).

### **Works by Master Edouard Schultz**

Studying the heritage of the organ Master Edouard Schultz from Dinaburg, it should be said that his works were few. Unfortunately, the organ of the church of St. Mary in Polotsk has not been preserved, but the works of Master Schultz are in

Selonia (nowadays Sēlija – a historical and cultural region of Latvia), in Catholic churches of Elerne and Svente.

The church in Elerne was originally built in 1650 by Heinrich Tienen as a Lutheran one. First it belonged to the Lutheran community, but later the Lutherans moved to the Catholic church in Muravki (Siķele) and the Elerne church became Catholic (Bīskaps 1997, 590).

Thus, the architecture of this church, both in scale and in detail, resembles other churches characteristic of the Duchy of Courland (Bīskaps 1997, 590). In 1892, the parish installed a wind organ by Master E. Schultz in the church, as evidenced by the name of the master, which has survived to this day (E. Schultz, Dünaburg, 1892, 6/I/P). Let us decipher the designation of the instrument 6/I/P – 6 resonant, one manual (keyboard) and one pedal keyboard. It was a one-handed instrument, characterized by a small range – only six registers. This instrument is one of the few that still has the original “decorative” register, a working Glockenspiel bell. The style of the organ can be attributed to Neo-Gothic. Traditionally, the instrument is located in the center of the western part in a wooden box or case. The case is made of glued coniferous wood and decorated with modest baroque fragments of carved wood covered with a thick layer of gilding. For the pipes of the organ, galvanized and painted material was used, the pipes were non-resonant in their sound. The playing table is located on the south side of the temple, its dimensions are respectively 303x208x405 mm, and the field pitch is 439 Hz, at temperature 17.5°C. Latvian experts believe that E. Schultz’s organ has all the features of Friedrich Weizenborn’s school (Elernes).

The organ of the Holy Trinity church is located in Svente, Svente parish, Augšdaugava region. In its appearance, it does not give the impression of a solid structure. The exact date of manufacture of the organ is not indicated, but in its characteristics, it is identical to the wind organ from the Catholic church in Elerne, dated 1892, made by the master E. Schultz (E. Schultz, Dünaburg, 1892, 6/I/P). The stone church in honor of the Holy Trinity is notable for the fact that it was built in 1800, the initiator was Count Casimir Plater-Zyberg (1749–1807). Later, the religious building was consecrated in honor of St. Archangel Michael. It is highly likely that the organ was installed at the end of the 19th century (Bīskaps 1997, 657–658). The organ in Svente is also one-handed and belongs to the school of F. Weizenborn, Neo-Gothic style. The master’s mark is missing. The organ is located in the western part of the church in a wind box, its technical condition is considered by specialists as satisfactory, the instrument is in working order. The diapason is small – only six registers. Material – softwood, glued, painted white. The craftsman used painted galvanized material for the organ pipes. The playing

table is located in the southern part of the temple (Sventes).

In search for materials about the organ Master E. Schultz from Dinaburg, great assistance was rendered by the well-known organist Aivars Kalējs from the New St. Gertrude Evangelical Lutheran church. The organist from Riga provided additional information from his personal archive about the Dinaburg master. Possibly Edouard Schultz was born in 1845 and died after 1905. The organs built by the master should include the instrument in the church of St. Michael the Archangel (1896) in Izvalta. True, the church burned down in early 1941 during World War II and the organ is not preserved. Further, Edouard Schultz, together with Janis Gremze, repaired musical instruments in churches, among them:

- 1894, organ of St. Ann's Catholic church in Berzgaile near Aglona;
- 1905 in Subbath (modern Subate);
- from 1903 to 1904, the installation of an organ in the Catholic Cathedral of the Heart of Jesus in Rezhitsa (15/II/P) (Archive of A. Kalējs). According to the Roman Catholic Priest Christopher Pozharsky from St. Petersburg, it is known that the parish of St. Stanislav bought a new organ in 1902 and donated the old one to the Rezhitsa Catholic community. Currently, the organ is located in the Catholic church in honor of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Lucin (Archive of G. Sedova);
- regarding the exact date of the establishment of the organ in the church of St. Mary in Polotsk, it could be 1892 or 1893 (Archive of G. Sedova).

## **Conclusions**

The development of the railway contributed to the economic growth of the territories of the Daugava region and provided an incentive for the migration flows of Germans and Latvians, which contributed to the expansion of Lutheran parishes in the Vitebsk province including Polotskat.

Summarizing all the above, we can conclude that the study of the heritage of the organ Master Edouard Schultz from Dinaburg revealed the fact that the best traditions of German organ building were widely represented in the workshops of Livland and Courland. The study discovered that, according to their characteristics, all works of the organ maker Edouard Schultz from Dinaburg belong to the workshop of Friedrich Weizenborn from Jakobstadt. Moreover, some of the preserved church organs made by Master Schultz contained the master's name in German (Orgelbauer E. Schultz, Dunaburg) and his first name, Edouard. In the future the author assumes to continue the study of the heritage of the organ Master Edouard Schultz from Dinaburg, as well as the activities of Pastor Felix Max Bertschy of the church of St. Mary in Polotskat.

Currently, there are 300 historical organs in Latvia, the oldest instruments are in the churches of Kurzeme (modern Ugāle and Liepāja). Church organs of the Master Edouard Schultz from Dinaburg are rare. The master's organ can be seen and heard during divine services in the Roman Catholic churches of Latgale: in the Ascension church in Elerne and in the Holy Trinity church in Svente. There is confidence that the history of the church organ of the former church of St. Mary in Polotsk will be studied and there is every reason for this.

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### **Ērģeļu meistars Eduards Šulcs: no Dinaburgas uz Polocku (19. gs.)**

**Atslēgas vārdi:** meistars Eduards Šulcs no Dinaburgas, vācieši un latvieši Polockā, Polockas Sv. Marijas luterāņu baznīca, arhitekts Pauls Maks Berči, mācītājs Karls Felikss Berči, baznīcu ērģeles

### **Kopsavilkums**

Pētījums ir par Dinaburgas ērģeļu meistaru Eduardu Šulcu. Rakstā uzmanība vērsta vāciešu un latviešu migrācijai uz Vitebsku un Polocku, pārceļotāju dalībai Rīgas-Orlas dzelzceļa līnijas būvniecībā 19. gs. Berči ģimenes – arhitekta Paula Maksa un viņa vecākā dēla, mācītāja Karla Feliksa – piemērs atklāj ģimenes saikni ar Polockas luterāņu draudzi. Mācītājs K. F. Berči Sv. Marijas baznīcā kalpojis ilgu laiku. Pētījuma autore izskata jautājumu par baznīcas mūzikas instrumentu attīstību Vidzemē un Kurzemē, par Baltijas apgabala ērģeļu darbnīcām. Ir sastādīts ērģeļu meistara E. Šulca veidoto instrumentu saraksts, mēģināts noskaidrot meistara zīmoga atrašanās vietu. Publikācijā aprakstītas Elernes un Sventes katoļu baznīcu ērģeles, kas tika izgatavotas Dinaburgas meistara E. Šulca darbnīcā. Baznīcu ērģeles ir labi saglabājušās līdz mūsdienām.