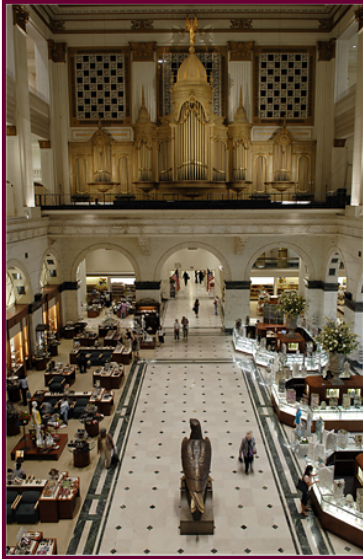


The Wanamaker Organ

Where would you guess the largest operational pipe organ in the world would be located? Believe it or not, it is featured in a spacious 7-story court in Macy's Center City (formerly Wanamaker's department store) in Philadelphia, Pa.



My wife, Lola, discovered it on a shopping trip while we were in the City of Brotherly Love for an American College of Health Care Administrators meeting last April, and promptly called Dr. Ken Scott and me to come see – and hear – it.

The Wanamaker Organ is played twice a day, Monday through Saturday, and more frequently during the Christmas season. In its present configuration, the organ has 28,543 pipes in 462 ranks. The organ console consists of six manuals with an array of stops and controls that command the organ. The organ's String Division forms the largest single organ chamber in the world. The instrument features 88 ranks of string pipes built by the W.W. Kimball Company of Chicago.

The Wanamaker Organ was originally built by the Los Angeles Art Organ Company for the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, and designed to be the largest organ in the world. After the fair closed, the organ languished in storage until 1909 when it was bought by John Wanamaker for his new department store at 13th and Market streets in Center City, Philadelphia.

John Wanamaker (1838 – 1922) was a merchant, religious leader, civic and political figure, considered by some to be the father of modern advertising. He opened his first store in 1861, called Oak Hall, at Sixth and Market streets in Philadelphia, on the site of George Washington's Presidential Home.



On the 60th anniversary of Oak Hall, an old friend who came to congratulate Wanamaker on the success and durability of the business enterprise, asked him, "How do you keep?"

Wanamaker's reply: "Happily busy."

(more)

Sixty years of uninterrupted work in one business is no small achievement, whatever may be the degree of success attained. Wannamaker had started his own business at the age of 23, and had developed it into an establishment known throughout the world.

How had he done it? That is what the old friend wanted to know. "It is all in the two words with which I answered your first question," said Wanamaker. "Many people are busy because they have to; I'm busy because I want to be. So I am happily busy."

That is a significant difference. I am pleased to see, in the work we are called to do, that we have associates who are "happily busy" as they serve our residents.

– Beecher Hunter