

*About*

# WURLITZER

## Style E, Opus 1254

### The Skandia organ in Stockholm, Sweden

*by Johan Liljencrants, Dec 2007*



*Musikdirektör J. Malm vid Skandias konsertorgel, som lyssnarna få höra lördagen den 2 juli.*

[ Tidningen Radiolyssnaren år 1927 ]



Willard Ringstrand (1908-73), in white tails, at the Wurlitzer organ in the Skandia theatre in the 1950s. Private photo lent by Annalisa Ringstrand.



The SF Skandia movie theatre was created by architect Sven Asplund and opened in 1923. In 1926 a Wurlitzer organ was installed.

In the sixties the theatre was rebuilt and renamed into Look, and the organ was torn out. Most of its components were dumped inside the resonance tunnel of the Stockholm City Hall organ, in the attic, possibly for spare parts use. The console was deposited with the State Music Museum.





The Skandia theatre is still in operation as a SF (Svensk Filmindustri) combined cinema and conference venue. As common these days there are tight financial conditions prevailing between the tenant SF and the property owner Hufvudstaden that expects a lease matching the market. So presently there is little hope the Skandia organ could be re-installed at its original place. But the dream would be the creation here of a national scene for silent film.



The art decorations of Skandia, here admired by members of the prospective society of Skandia Organ friends, were done by artists Hilding Linnqvist, Leander Engström, Alf Munthe, Stig Blomberg, Einar Forseth, Ivar Johnsson and Nils Engberg. Skandia with its 572 seats is one of very few single screen theatres remaining in Stockholm.



The stage and the entrance doors to balcony boxes in the present appearance of the Skandia Theatre





The projection room houses modern equipment beside an antique UFA gong, here operated by Tommy Lundgren





A few of the concerned Skandia Organ friends, meeting 2005-08-25.  
Left to right: Johan Liljencrants, Hans Riben, Gunnar Julin, Tommy Lundgren, Jan Bergman, Arild Jägerskog, Bengt Modin, Eric Prame, Dag Edholm.



Tommy Lundgren and Gunnar Julin behind the console in the Music Museum stores.  
Photo Arild Jägerskog.





The Skandia organ remnants were brought to attention a few years ago, as they blocked a forthcoming restoration of the City Hall organ. The society Skandiaorgeln was formed, with the aim of restoring the Skandia organ.



More Skandia parts in the City Hall attic





Magnus Blix sorting Diaphone pipes. Photo: Per Olof Schultz

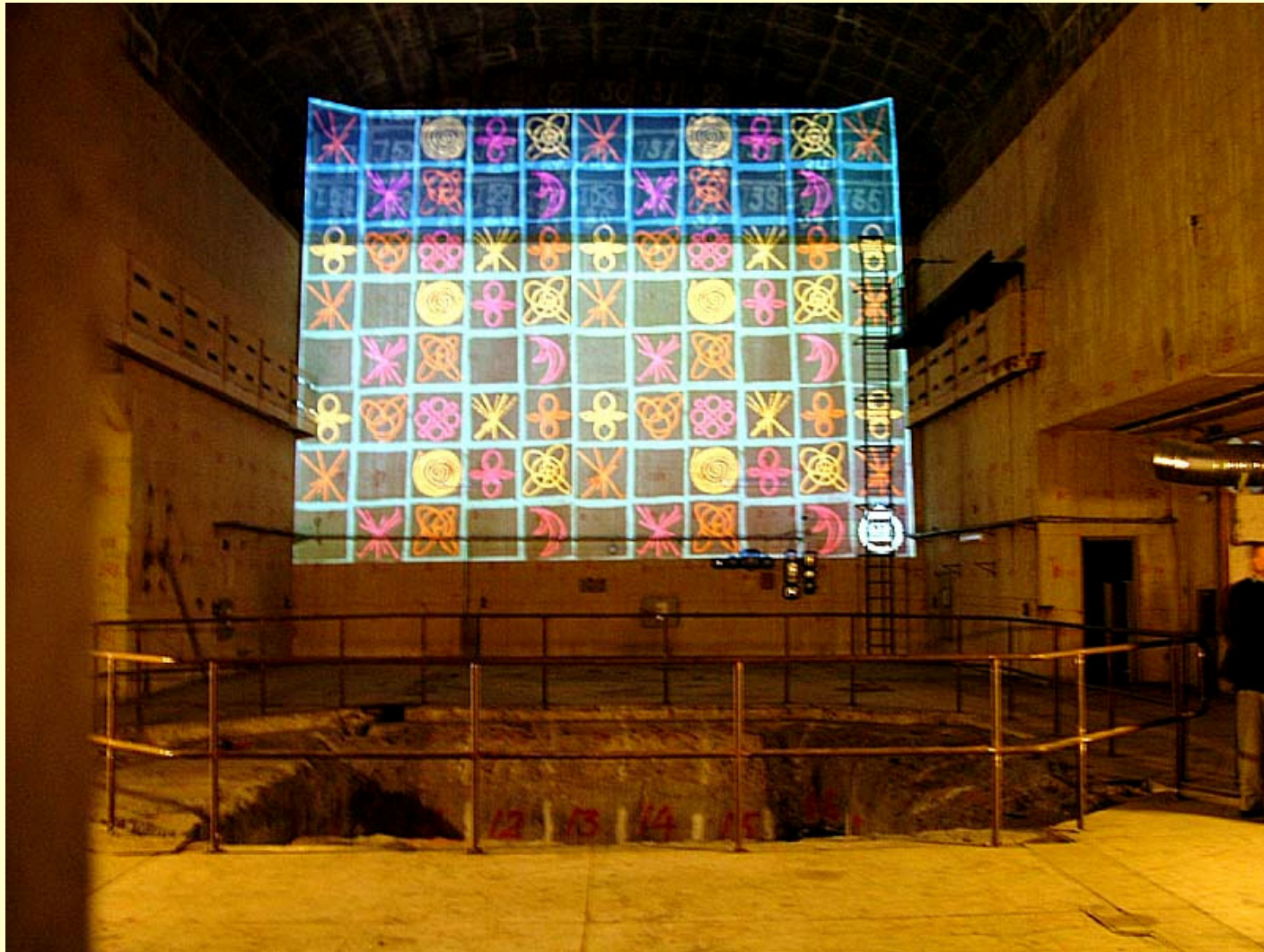


The Skandia organ toy counter,  
as found in the City Hall attic

-- and after restoration.







Short term plans are to resurrect the Skandia organ in the former R1 reactor hall, 24 meters underground at KTH, the Royal Institute of Technology. This is the site of the first Swedish nuclear research reactor, now dismantled since two decades.