

## 2011 Raffin Company Open House

### Rafael Engeser

April 8th, 2011 was the day of the Raffin open house and it was great day with sunny blue skies and warm spring weather. The production shop in Überlingen was opened for the public to take a look behind the scenes. Of course, fun, music and the chance to greet other interested organ fans was just part of the festivities. Many came from all parts of Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The atmosphere was filled with talk, laughter, organ sounds, music and singing. The latest news from the “world of organs” was shared while enjoying coffee and pretzels.



Figure 1. Josef Raffin with organ friend, Paul Fricker, from Switzerland.

At 11 o'clock Mrs. Friedlinde Engeser gave a warm welcome to all. She introduced everyone to ongoing changes in organization within the Raffin Company. Wolfgang Kaupp, the former managing director of production has started his own company with the main focus on laser technology art. Therefore he asked to be released from all manager duties and he now has more time for building up his laser art company.

Mr. Rafael Engeser remains manager for administration, distribution and sales. Former senior manager Josef Raffin jumped back into production business to assure on-going production management. Josef Raffin's grandson, Matthias Raffin, is now studying at the side of his grandfather and intensively being instructed in the correct organ



Figure 2. Rafael Engeser (right) with Walter & Lilo Vonbank from Austria.

manufacturing trade. As a professional carpenter he has worked on many projects and tuning up pipes with his “Opa” before; and his ears are very familiar with the typical and well-known “Raffin-sound.”



Figure 3. Paul Fricker playing a 31-note Raffin organ.

One of Raffin's new challenges in the near future is to emphasize the advertisement for the “amateur street organ hobby.” As a result of the advertisement the Raffin Company wishes to enlarge the group of “street organ hobby” fans. This wish of the Raffin family was underlined instantly by an emotional PowerPoint slide-show which was full of real-life photos, impressions and wonderful shared adventures/experiences together (rather than watching different technical types

of street organs). All visitors were invited to participate in writing down their personal experiences, feelings and thoughts about their point of view after the show. The result and involvement was appreciated by both guests and Raffin employees.



Figure 4. Josef Raffin posing with Klaus Jungenheimer and Martin Junger from Germany.

Rafael Engeser then explained what was on the agenda for the rest of the open house and afterwards everyone was invited to lunch in the beautiful sunshine and of course (wouldn't miss it), great street organ music! New rolls were tested; important dates about meetings were exchanged; interesting topics were discussed and many items brought up.

The sun was already setting while some guests were still sitting amongst the Raffin family appreciating the wonderful day they had had, all the time enjoying a glass of wine.



Figure 5. Organ open house friends enjoying a lunch and street organ music.