

COMMUNICATIONS

IN MEMORIAM : A PIONEER MUSIC LIBRARIAN

Mary Ogreta McNeill died in East York, Ontario, on Wednesday, April 21, 1993, in her 90th year. Helmut Kallmann prepared the following recollection for the Memorial Service, held in Newtonbrook United Church, North York, on May 14.

It was in September of 1943 that I first met Mrs. McNeill, then assistant to one Miss or Mrs. Smith, head of the music section of the Toronto Public Library. How many times did I visit, browse among the music stacks, and on my way out have a little chat with Mrs. McNeill. Not many years later, she went on leave to take a bachelor degree in music, followed by one in library science, thus becoming the first professional music librarian in Canada.

Meanwhile I had become a colleague, working at the CBC music library. A certain camaraderie developed between the music librarians of academic, public and broadcast libraries in Toronto -- Jean Lavender, Ogreta McNeill and myself -- since we depended on each other's resources and experiences in dealing with publishers and clients. When this interdependence reached the point where a formal association of countrywide scope was indicated, Ogreta McNeill once again stood in the forefront. In 1956 the first meeting of the CMLA, the music section of the Canadian Library Association, took place at Niagara Falls and she became our first "chairman" (a term then still acceptable.) She had a natural gift for leadership. She had energy, authority and persuasiveness, and, when called for, pursued the cause of music librarianship with directness, spirit and determination. And pursued other causes as well: I believe she cancelled her TSO subscription after the infamous episode of the "Symphony Six."

We continued to meet at CMLA meetings -- she was "chairman" again for the term 1964-65 -- and also at Canadian Music Council meetings, at concerts and on social occasions. After her retirement and my move to Ottawa we exchanged Christmas cards for many years. We met, perhaps the last time, at the CAML meeting in Hamilton in June 1981, the 25th

anniversary of the organization she had built. In September of 1993 our acquaintance and friendship would have reached half a century.

On the telephone she would announce herself as Reta, but I could never quite bring myself to address her by that name; it would have felt almost like calling one's mother by her first name. And whether they were aware of it at the time or not, her colleagues recognized and cherished Ogreta McNeill precisely as the mother figure of Canadian music librarians. We all owe a great debt to her and remember her with fondness.

UVIC WINS SSHRC JAZZ GRANT

The University of Victoria Libraries have recently completed the purchase of an extensive collection of materials related to Jazz History and Pedagogy, made possible by a grant of \$40,671 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The collection includes compact discs, videotapes, pedagogical materials, serials backfiles, as well as published transcriptions, fake books, monographs and dissertations. All items are being fully catalogued and may be searched in the Library's online catalogue VICTOR, which is available on the Internet. For further information, contact Sandra Acker, Music Librarian, McPherson Library, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C.

APPEL AU BIBLIOTHECAIRES FRANCOPHONES

La Bibliothèque publique d'information à Paris prépare un annuaire global des bibliothécaires francophones. Le premier but est de réunir les bibliothèques publiques et les bibliothèques universitaires en sciences humaines.

Que ceux qui souhaitent voir figurer leur nom et adresse électronique dans l'annuaire, s'adressent à Jacques Faule <faule@univ-rennes1.fr>, chef de Service de bases de données, BPI.

Adressez aussi toutes questions concernant l'annuaire à Jacques Faule.

**ATLANTIC REGION
CANADIAN MUSIC CENTRE**

Some interesting things are happening at the Atlantic Region Canadian Music Centre. The office is located on the third floor of the Centre for Canadian Studies on the campus of Mount Allison University in Sackville. Though, as yet, open for only a minimum number of hours due to insufficient funding, the Centre does have some services in place of which students in particular are availing themselves.

The catalogue of the library holdings of the Canadian Music Centre is accessible through the MAC Apple Centre for Innovation server on the campus. Users may find reference to the scores of the CMC's associate composers and discover whether a specific work is available in either the Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, or Montreal libraries. The meagre holdings of the Sackville office are not yet included in the on-line catalogue, but will be noted as its collection grows. The Centre hopes to make the catalogue accessible on the Internet and thus available at most universities in Canada and indeed around the world. Scores of works may be borrowed from other regional offices, or private copies may be purchased. The Atlantic Regional Office also has available some scores of works of the Atlantic Canadian Composers Association (ACCA).

A MAC terminal is presently located in the Alfred Whitehead Music Library of Mount Allison University, one of the best music libraries of the Atlantic Region, and relevant reference tools are here at hand.

Plans are underway for educational development: use of enhanced CD-ROM products will highlight specific Canadian compositions; an electronic keyboard will permit reading through scores on location as well as editing with some MIDI applications.

For further information on the Atlantic Region Canadian Music Centre phone (506) 536-4161, contact Peter Higham, Gwendolyn Ebbett, Nancy Vogan or Willis Noble, all at Mount Allison University, or direct queries by e-mail to CMC@MTA.CA.

- Peter Higham

**SIR ERNEST MACMILLAN
1893-1973**

Sir Ernest MacMillan was born 100 years ago on August 18, 1893. The Trustees of the Sir Ernest MacMillan Memorial Foundation are encouraging Canadian organizations and individuals to celebrate the achievements of this extraordinary man during his centenary year. Events already planned include the publication of his *String Quartet* in v. 13 of the Canadian Musical Heritage series, and its performance in summer festivals in Huntsville and in Parry Sound by the St. Lawrence String Quartet, concerts in the fall at the Royal Conservatory and the Faculty of Music in Toronto, and by the Mendelssohn Choir and the Toronto Symphony. The first public viewing of *Sir Ernest MacMillan -- The Musician and His Times*, will take place Dec. 3-19, 1993, in Roy Thomson Hall, Toronto. This exhibition, prepared by the National Library of Canada will be mounted at the NLC in Ottawa in the fall of 1994.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce and welcome new members to the Association. It was especially good to meet Denise and Shuk Han in June at the conference sessions in Windsor.

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