

IAML CONFERENCE PRAGUE 1991

- Alison Hall
Carleton University Library

Everyone I spoke to who had been there told me that Prague was wonderful. Everyone was absolutely right! Prague is an easy city to explore on foot, and, should those feet become a little tired, there are excellent metro and tramway systems, cheap, swift, and easy to understand. But one should try to find time to do some walking, to visit Wenceslas Square (Vaclavske namesti), to stroll across the Charles Bridge (Karlův most), Prague's oldest, for pedestrians only, spanning the Vltava between the picturesque Old Town (Stare mesto) and the Lesser Quarter (Mala strana). Take a look inside some of the churches, whose interiors give a new meaning to the words "baroque" and "rococo".

The weather in August was hot and sunny, and the city was full of tourists. Some of those tourists, however, being members of the International Association of Music Libraries, spent a little of their time in the rather awful, modern Palace of Culture (Palace kultura), (where the escalators worked only until noon, and those daring to enter the elevator were asked if they had any last requests), opposite the Forum Hotel, in the area of Prague called Vysehrad.

COUNCIL



Secretary-general's report

During the year, the Board discussed the future of Fontes artis musicae, and of IAMIC. A letter has been sent to Bärenreiter to indicate that our contract should not automatically be renewed in July 1992, and a committee has been struck to investigate other publishers. The Secretary-general visited St. Petersburg and gathered information about the difficulties of the music library situation there.

Treasurer's report

IAML now has 1866 individual and institutional members from 40 countries. The treasurer reminded

us that dues should be paid by March 1, and named the delinquent countries. A new Treasurer will be required at the end of this fiscal year.

Fontes

The delay in the appearance of Fontes is to some extent due to the fact that Bärenreiter is now simply a publisher and contracts out its printing. 1991/1 is in print, 91/2 is at the printer, and labels have been sent for 1991/3, the Public libraries issue. 1991/4 will be a Czech number. The editor noted that the habit of linking national numbers with the conference location was, in principle, a good idea, as members can learn about the libraries in the host country. However, there is no doubt that the preparations for the conference are a lot of work, and it is difficult for a national branch to deal with both. It would be possible for these issues to be prepared further in advance, or else to break the link. The deadline for the conference issue, 1992/1 was revised to Oct. 1. 1992/2 will be a German issue, and 1992/3 and /4 are open. The new editor of Fontes is Suki Sommer, who was appointed for a three year term, starting in 1993.

International Standard Music Number (ISMN)

An international standard was drafted in May in Copenhagen. There were some minor changes, and a major one in the composition of the check digit. The document will be circulated to the ISO membership, a French translation will be made, and in six months time there should be a new international standard. A users manual has been drafted and is ready for publication.

Relationships with other organizations

IAML representatives attended IFLA in Stockholm in 1990, and will attend the meeting in Moscow this year. (In fact they did attend, in the middle of the coup!) A general view is that everyone is suffering from a shortage of money. Ulf Scharlau represented IAML at the IASA meeting in Sopron, Hungary, and is representing IASA here in Prague. IASA will meet with IAML in Helsinki in 1993.

IAMIC

There were discussions in Uppsala between the MIC

Branch and the IAML Board. As a result, the MIC Branch has become a separate organization. They intend to limit their activities to contemporary music. As a result of this move, IAML plans to start a new branch called Music Documentation Centres. The MICs will meet at the same time as IAML in Frankfurt, and hope to co-ordinate activities. They will be applying to the IMC for official recognition. The Council voted in favour of closing the MIC Branch and starting a new one for Documentation Centres. Best wishes were extended to them. It was suggested that a temporary branch be established until the meeting in Helsinki in 1993, when the next elections take place.

RISM

A proposal was made to review the previous advisory board and rules of procedure. A revival of Series C, v. 2 and 3 is being considered. The distribution of v. 5 by Bärenreiter has been unsuccessful, and two fascicles of v. 6 have been in their hands since 1986.

Candidates for Board Elections, 1993

President: Don Roberts (USA)
 Vice-Presidents: Wolfgang Kreuger (Germany)
 Michele Lancelin (France)
 Lenore Coral (USA)
 Blanka Cerninkova (Czechoslovakia)
 Massimo Gentile Tedeschi (Italy)
 Hugh Cobbe (Great Britain)
 Pam Thompson (Great Britain)
 Heiki Poirola (Finland)



Future meetings

1992 Frankfurt-am-Main, Aug. 30-Sept. 4
 1992 Helsinki, August
 1994 Ottawa, July 17-22
 1995 Elsinore, latter part of June
 1996 Perugia, last week of August

OTHER SESSIONS

RILM

The RILM budget is now over a quarter of a million US dollars. Its governing body is the Commission Mixte, with ten members appointed jointly by IAML and the IMC, and now two further members from the ITCM. RILM is now available on CD-ROM, and it is hoped to have a demonstration of this in Frankfurt in 1992, RILM's 20th anniversary.

Adam O'Connor (RILM Office, New York) said that abstracts are received from all over the world, and issued encouragement to submit promptly and in quantity. If two abstracts are received for an item (sometimes one from the author and one from the RILM Committee), they will use one, or a combination. The CD-ROM product contains all RILM except for the first two years: these will eventually be added, both to it and also to Dialog. The printed version will always be continued.

Carl Scoggard (RILM Office, New York) reported that RILM will be current in 1994, under an accelerated schedule, which means between eighteen months and two years behind the literature publication date. Among the problems they encounter when receiving submissions are enigmatic citations mentioning names of people, instruments, etc. in informal or obsolete styles, and for composite items (symposia, festschriften, essays) a lack of full information about the contents.

Bibliography Commission: Historical Librettos
Venetian librettos in the Archivio computerizzata musicale Veneto project: Alessandro Moro (A.C.O.M., Venezia)

A.C.O.M. is a large musical-bibliographical data base, containing over 200,000 records for scores, libretti, scenography, and treatises held in libraries of Venice and the Veneto, created between 1987 and 1990, with funds from the Italian government. The libretti sub-project is based mainly on the Rolandi Collection in the Cini Foundation, of particular importance to 19th-century Italian opera, and the Marciana National Library, and the Correr Collection, Casa di Goldoni, covering 17th- and 18th-century Venetian productions. The information entered includes whole title page transcription, details of the various operatic roles, and historical information about the operas. The format complies

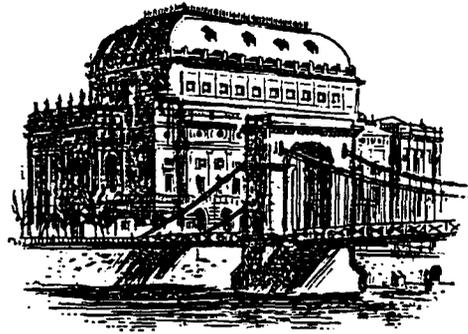
with national bibliographic standards, and all parts of the data base can be searched using common search strategies.

Cataloguing the librettos of baroque opera in Hamburg: Dorothea Schroeder (Projekt der Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft "Hamburger Barockoper", Hamburg)

The Gansemarkt opera house in Hamburg, opened in 1678, was the largest in northern Germany, and operas were performed regularly there until 1738. Large collections of librettos for these performances survive in Hamburg, Berlin, Weimar and Brussels. A catalogue of librettos and a calendar of performances prepared before World War II was destroyed during the war; a similar project has been undertaken by the Musikwissenschaftliches Institut of Hamburg University, under the auspices of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. The final catalogue includes about 2400 librettos representing 306 operas, prologues, serenades and intermezzi. Information available includes title page transcription, composers, librettists, stage designers, singers and other persons listed, locations and full shelfmarks, and a calendar of performance. This may serve as a model for similar projects in Brunswick, Dresden and Munich, and if so, the interrelationships between the opera houses can be reconstructed.

The U.S.-RISM libretto project: Diane Parr Walker (University of Virginia, Charlottesville)

The project was conceived in 1982, shortly after the Libretto Symposium, sponsored by RISM, was held in Munich. Presently the initial project to catalogue the 12,000 librettos in the Albert Schatz collection in the Library of Congress is being completed, and the information is available online via the RLIN data base. The USMARC format for monographs, with slight amendments, can accommodate all the information included in the checklist of data to be collected, that was distributed at the symposium. The RLIN data base can be searched by all names listed in each libretto, including singers, dancers, production personnel, composers, librettists, dedicatees, theatres, cities and also years of production. Other collections can be catalogued relatively speedily by adding holdings information for duplicates, or making small adaptations for local needs, with significant time spent only on creating new records.



Music in the automated information system of the Slovak national bibliography: Anna Kucianova (Matica slovenska, Martin)

The Slovak national bibliography contains all "Slovakiana" which has been issued in an edition of 100 copies or more, and is publicly distributed. It is divided into several series, covering books, periodicals, theses, programs and catalogues, graphic materials, printed music, and audio-visual materials (including microforms and magnetic tapes).

Research Libraries Branch

Changing horizons in Europe: new possibilities

In his introduction, Hugh Cobbe (British Library, London) set the scene by speaking of the events of the last couple of years that have changed the political, economic and cultural face of Europe. These have, or will, cause a change in the way that materials and information become available.

The Music Division of the Library of Congress

James Pruett spoke of visiting national libraries to discuss exchange programs. The Library of Congress receives items on legal deposit, by purchase and by exchange, as well as from blanket orders and gifts, and has field offices in various countries which act as liaison. The Library intends to develop more active exchange programs, with a plan to include rare materials in microform. Pruett also noted that changing horizons could mean changing methods of communication.

A French view of the theme: Catherine Massip (Bibliothèque nationale, Paris)

Changes have been generated by events in eastern Europe, and changes will arise from the integration of the European Economic Community in 1992. Both these, and the proposed advent of the Bibliothèque de France in 1995 make for an uncertain future. International exchange is currently the only

link with eastern European libraries. And what will happen in 1992 as a result of the free circulation of rare documents?

Die Staatsbibliotheken in Berlin: Joachim Jaenecke (Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin)
After the Second World War, the holdings of the Prussian State Library remaining in West Germany, located in Marburg and Tübingen, were transferred to the SBK which had been established in West Berlin. In East Berlin, the former Prussian State Library became the national library of East Germany, as the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek. Since 1989/90, both state libraries belong to the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz, founded in 1957, financed jointly by the federal government and the sixteen Länder. Eventually the two libraries will be a unified institution, probably with a single new name, in two locations; the new building on the Potsdamer Strasse will house all books printed after 1955, as a research and lending library, and the old building on the Unter den Linden will be a research library holding pre-1955 imprints and special collections such as manuscripts, maps and music.

Working group on Hofmeister XIX

The aim of this project group is to index the Whistling/Hofmeister bibliography (1817-1900). Neil Ratliff has assembled a complete run of cumulations on microfilm. The cost of converting the text using OCR is estimated at about US \$20,000, but as the accuracy of this method is questionable, the feasibility of re-keying and tagging the information at comparable costs, will be investigated. Neil reported that G.K. Saur might provide some funding in exchange for publishing rights.

This is just a sampling of the sessions at IAML 1991 in Prague. As usual, there was a full supporting program of social and musical events, ranging from the opening session and reception at the Convent of St. Agnes (Klaster ss. Anezsky); a reception in the Czech national Library in the Klementinum; an atmospheric boat trip for some down the Vltava to Troja Castle, stunningly floodlit, for a concert by the Prague Guitar Quartet; a sightseeing excursion at breakneck speed through the city, including a run through Prague Castle (Hradcany), which sprawls down the hill to the city below, from St. Vitus



Research libraries in Czechoslovakia: Julius Hulek (Narodni Knihovna, Prague)

The role of research libraries in the country is rather undefined. During the past forty years many collections have been threatened, and even destroyed, making development impossible. And now there is even confusion between the nature and functions of the research library and the public library:

Cathedral (Katedrál svatého Víta) at the very top; a concert by Musica Antiqua Praha of baroque music in a beautiful baroque church; and one of the most friendly farewell dinners I have ever attended, in the garden of the Bedrich Smetana Museum, which is on the edge of the Vltava, underneath the Charles Bridge. Our Czech colleagues were wonderful hosts, and it was especially important to us that this conference was able to take place in a free Czechoslovakia.