Section québécoise de l'ACBM / Quebec Chapter of CAML: 2014 Annual Meeting Report

By Houman Behzadi

The 2014 annual meeting of the Section québécoise de l'ACBM (SQACBM) / Quebec Chapter of CAML (QCCAML) took place on Friday, 31 October at the library of Université Laval. This was the first gathering of QCCAML members since the 2012 meeting that was held at the Grande Bibliothèque of Montreal. Due to logistical difficulties, the organizing committee had decided to either postpone the fall 2013 meeting to the following spring, or hold one meeting for both 2013 and 2014. A survey soliciting chapter members' preferences regarding the date and location of the meeting was sent out and after careful examination of all responses, the organizing committee decided to hold one meeting only. Choosing Quebec City as this year's location attracted a number of new members who had not been able to participate in the Montreal meetings.

This year's meeting was unique in that it included a training component. Daniel Paradis from Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ) gave a three-hour workshop on cataloguing audio recordings in RDA. The session was designed for cataloguers with prior knowledge of cataloguing audio recordings in the MARC21/AACR2 environment. Paradis presented in-depth explanations of major changes and new rules in RDA and provided a handout with examples of twelve RDA records for audio recordings. During the workshop, he took questions from participants.

The attendees then gathered for lunch and the General Assembly. During the business meeting, Daniel Paradis spoke about his work on the chapter's new website, which is expected to launch in the near future. Elections were also held in order to fill all four positions on the QCCAML board of directors. Having reached the end of our two-year terms, Benoit Migneault (BAnQ) and I stepped down. Daniel Paradis and Mélissa Gravel (Université Laval) were re-elected; Marc-André Goulet (BAnQ) and Rémi Castonguay (UQÀM) were elected and joined as new board members. Please see the chapter's website to learn more about the specific position of each board member.

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The afternoon session started with Marc-André Goulet's presentation on the current audio/video streaming offerings at BAnQ and other North American and European music libraries. Goulet presented the results of his recent explorations on the evolving audio/video collection models. He also looked at declining CD sales figures and spoke about the gradual shift from the acquisition of traditional audio formats to subscription-based streaming services.

Building a collection of Persian music at the University of Toronto Libraries was the topic of my presentation, which described a project I am currently working on. Recent years have seen a growing involvement of Toronto's Persian community in the musical and cultural scene of the city. The U of T Faculty of Music's strong ethnomusicology program has attracted a significant number of graduate students interested in Persian music studies whose work and research would benefit from the presence of a strong and carefully constructed Persian music collection. Additionally, the project is a response to the current goals and mandates of the Music Library Association's Collection Development and Resource Sharing Committee, which stresses the importance of building music collections from the world's challenging geographic regions. After a brief historical overview of music in Iran, I talked about the highlights of my trip to Tehran in early 2014 when I met several music publishers and vendors and learned that much of the Persian musicians' and music scholars' output is absent from the large research collections in North America.

During the Round Table, attendees discussed best practices for the management of some of music libraries' most challenging formats. Benoit Migneault showed a new case designed for CDs and DVDs that might be used by the Music and Film section of the Grande Bibliothèque as a space-saving solution. I brought up the subject of born-digital scores and the challenges they provide to libraries, from purchasing, to handling the digital file, to copyright issues, etc. While some librarians had found innovative approaches, no sustainable practice was identified.

The third presentation of the afternoon, about an indexing project at Université Laval's Music Library, was cancelled as one of the presenters could not be at the meeting. A tour of the newly renovated 4th floor of the Université Laval Library was the last scheduled activity.

A warm reception organized by Mélissa Gravel and the staff of the Music Library concluded the day.