

IAML REPORT 1970-1971. Prepared for CMLA Annual Meeting by Helmut Kallmann.

Membership: The total is now 75 (42 individuals and 33 institutions). Of these 16 are new members for 1970, 4 new members for 1971. Unfortunately seven individual members and two institutions have not yet paid for 1970. We have lost three individual members and one institution.

In the offing: St. Gallen Congress, August 22-28,

Prospect of a fee increase to \$4.50 for individuals and \$9.00 for institutions.

IAML Conference 1975 may be held in Canada. The International Music Council may come to Canada for its 1975 meeting; hence the possibility of coupling the two events. Place may be Ottawa with some of the events taking place in Montreal and Toronto. Our preparations will be tied in with those of the Canadian Music Council, e.g. exploring costs, timetables, type of event, etc.

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THE LIBRARY - A USER'S VIEW. Paper delivered at the CMLA Annual Meeting, Hotel Vancouver, 20 June, 1971 by Dr. Bryan N.S. Gooch.

There can be no doubt in the minds of any of us with regard to the validity of building and maintaining libraries, of increasing the scope and effectiveness of the collections, and of improving the range and efficiency of the services which such institutions can offer. Yet we would be naive to assume that this outlook is either generally held or even universally understood. It is too easy to believe that a position, the rightness of which is self-evident to a group of initiates, will appear to everyone to be based on the sort of reasonable and rational approach, on the kind of empirical utilitarianism which our century holds in awe. Almost all libraries, public and institutional, depend finally on the society for support; they depend on the understanding and willing taxpayer who is content to see a certain portion of his annual donation to the commonwealth go to keeping them healthy and growing. We can talk glibly amongst ourselves about the intrinsic merit of having such repositories of knowledge and collections of items which to some members of the community seem valuable, but if more is not done to acquaint the public at large with the benefit to society of what must seem to many like pack-ratting on a grandiose and costly scale, not only will the libraries fail to fill to the full extent their role in the communities they serve, but they may find even the normal maintenance and growth of their services hampered - to be blunt, they may be short of funds.

"Image" is a word which has suffered from overpopularity; it seems to have acquired in some contexts the sickly triteness which belongs to "lifestyle," "relevant," "meaningful," and similar terms. But having said that, and at the risk of seeming unduly "mod" or "with it" (whatever that means), let me suggest that libraries - and music libraries are part of the picture - can do more to improve their image and to convince a sometimes unwilling public - unwilling because unknowing - that they are relevant in producing a meaningful lifestyle. (A winning sentence, that!) Macaulay, writing about Milton in an essay for the Edinburgh Review in 1825, says this:

Logicians may reason about abstractions. But the great mass of men must have images. The strong tendency of the multitude in all ages and nations to idolatry can be explained on no other principle. ¹

1 Thomas Babington, Lord Macaulay, Literary Essays Contributed to the Edinburgh Review (London: Oxford University Press, 1923), p. 18