



Association internationale des bibliothèques, archives et centres de documentation musicaux (AIBM)

International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML)

Internationale Vereinigung der Musikbibliotheken, Musikarchive und Musikdokumentationszentren (IVMB)

Czech Republic, report 2009

At the present time the Czech National Branch has 26 institutional members, of which 12 are also IAML members.

On 19 November 2008, the annual plenary session of the Czech Branch took place at the Martinů Institute in Prague. Most present members elected Mrs. Klaudová, who is the Head of the Music Department in Ostrava City Library, as the new vice-president. The other members of the Czech Board will continue in their positions until the autumn of 2011.

We were welcome guests at the new headquarters of the Bohuslav Martinů Institute and Foundation in Prague (<http://www.Martinu.cz/>). The fiftieth anniversary of this Czech composer's death in 2009 was a good opportunity to present several interesting projects. The most important and monumental task of the Institute is a critical edition of the collected works by Bohuslav Martinů. Its completion is scheduled for the term of fifty years, in the course of this time one hundred volumes should be issued. The first volumes of the Bohuslav Martinů Complete Edition (BMCE) are expected to be published in 2010 -2011.

We were introduced to a programme called MARTINŮ REVISITED, which is intended for the concentrated promotion of Martinů works. All librarians received useful information and advertising brochures. This international project of concerts, exhibitions, conferences and other large or small events has been and will be going on for the whole year of 2009. It is supported by the Czech Ministry of Culture, the City of Prague, Prague Spring, Theatre Institute, and the Bohuslav Martinů Foundation, and also work in cooperation with the National Theatres in Prague and Brno.

The digitization project of Martinů autographs presented for example a newly-found manuscript entitled Three Fragments of Julietta. More financial resources are being sought for the project of electronic archiving of other music and Martinů iconography.

The secretary of the Czech Board, Mrs. Zoja Seyčková, showed us the library of the Bohuslav Martinů Institute. The library under her lead contains about two thousand Czech and foreign language book materials, dissertations, diploma projects, printed scores and photocopies of autographs and manuscripts of most compositions by Martinů, collections of his correspondence, articles from newspapers and journals and other resources including an ever-growing audio and video archive, specializing in Bohuslav Martinů recordings from all over the world, as well as copies of documentary films and video recordings of concerts, operas and ballet performances. All these materials serve not only musicologists, students and researchers, but also the general public interested in Martinů's life and work.



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During all sessions of music librarians we would talk about copyright and related problems. While we have already solved, at least partially, and with the support of the Czech Ministry of Culture, the conditions of loaning and copying of audio materials in Czech libraries, and while we have made a contract with rights holders, we are still dealing with the issue of copying music sheets. Another part of our meeting was an excellent presentation on the topic “Copyright and Printed Music“, in a paper by Mrs. Meklesova from the legal division of the Czech Ministry of Culture.

After a few years, we have again created two working groups in the Czech National Branch. At the head of the Public Libraries Group was elected Mrs. Simonova from the Municipal Library in Hradec Kralove. The Cataloguing Commission leads Mrs. Borkova from the National Library in Prague. The first workshop of this Commission took place in the National Library on 15 April 2009 and was devoted to uniform titles of musical works. There was presented the new publication by Hana Borkova, Cataloguing of Music: a Manual for Cataloguer with examples in MARC 21 and UNIMARC.

In May 2009 we celebrated a little jubilee, as the Music Department of the Jiří Mahen Library organized a two days' seminar for the tenth anniversary of the music libraries in Brno. The cycle of lectures from musical history continued this year with several interesting lectures about Moravian folklore. Moravian folk music was presented there as a relevant source for our national musicality. Their collection, preservation and infiltration to “haut musical monde” started in the eighteenth century and continue to this day. Lastly, we ourselves proved the popularity of this music, when we all sang with enthusiasm later that evening with a group of excellent folk musicians. The level of this seminar was high, as always, and it was attended by quite a number of people. It became a good visiting card of Kristyna Kucirkova, the new young head of the Music Department of the municipal library in Brno.

This year's general meeting and seminar of the Czech National Branch will take place in autumn in the city of Krnov. We will be guests of the smaller local City Library, which is the youngest member of our National Branch. The programme of this session is planned together with the Musicological section of the Silesian Land Museum in Opava, the cultural centre of this region, and with the Board of the Czech National Branch. We are looking forward to visiting the largest organ factory in the Czech Republic and to follow up this visit with an organ concert.

And what about our plans for the future? We want to initiate new negotiations on printed music with the participation of rights holders and the Czech Ministry of Culture. We would like to prepare at least one discussion on some hot topics in the Public Library Group. Among our current work-load we also count digitization and description of sheet music tied with a more close cooperation among Czech libraries with a large collection of music. Our other objective is



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to extend access to electronic music databases for more Czech libraries. We are confident that we will be able to complete most of our tasks successfully.

Jana Navratilova

President, IAML (Czech Republic)