



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)

Japan, report 2009

The year 2009 commemorates the 30th anniversary of the founding of IAML Japan, and discussions are under way as to how to celebrate it. As of 7 June 2009, the Japanese branch has 79 members, of which 62 are individual ones, including one honorary member, and seventeen institutions. The activities of the branch in 2008 and 2009 have been directed by the same officers since last June (cf. p. 647 of *Fontes* 55/4).

The committee meetings have been held five times since the Naples conference to discuss various problems related to music libraries in Japan, particularly about more through research on original materials preserved in Japan, possible programs to bring up young music librarians and researchers, and plans to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Japanese Branch this year. Discussions on these projects are still continued at this point. Also discussed was the possible raise of annual membership fees due to our financial situation, but the committee decided not to propose it yet, as the present fees are considered high enough by some of our members, particularly younger ones.

An important meeting was held on 9 December 2008, sponsored by the Research Institute for Digital Media and Contents (DMC), Keio University, and co-sponsored by IAML Japan and the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra (YNSO) to report and discuss about “The Digitalization of Important Materials of the Nanki Music Library”. As well known, the library owns some historically important manuscripts and early prints of music, including the famous Cummings Collection and other important collections which have not been available to scholars for years because the library has been owned privately and closed to everyone. Now the present owner (the YNSO) has agreed to digitalize its possessions and Keio University has decided to undertake the project. We are particularly happy to report this as the result will be made public in a near future.

Another effort to make a research on original materials in Japan is an establishment of the research committee on “Musical Materials in Japan” by the Musicological Society of Japan (MSJ), and IAML Japan and the Music Library Association of Japan (MLAJ) have agreed to support the project by sending two delegates each: Hiroko KISHIMOTO, a musicologist and the director of the library at Showa University of Music, and Mariko TERAMOTO, a musicologist, from IAML Japan; and Shu-Ji LIN and Yumiko HASEGAWA, both librarians, from the MLAJ. The delegates from the MSJ are Keiichi KUBOTA and Wataru FUKUDA. It is expected that the committee’s work would eventually lead the way towards establish RISM in Japan.

Three issues of the *Newsletter* have appeared so far. Newsletter No. 33 reports mainly about the general assembly of our branch last year; No. 34 about the IAML 2008 Naples reports; and No. 35 about the digitalization of the Nanki Music Library. These issues, as well as recent news and the table of contents of *Fontes* in Japanese, are available on the IAML Japan Home Page, which has been updated from time to time. It has also been decided, as a part of the 30th Anniversary celebration, that a message and photographs of the IAML Conference in Tokyo twenty years ago



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will be shown on our Home Page in due course of time. The images are available on Flickr.com:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/iaml_tokyomeeting/sets/72157621970534044/show/>

The General Assembly of the IAML Japan Branch in 2009 was held on June 7, followed by a regular meeting titled: *Past, Present and Future of IAML Japan*. One of the speakers at the meeting was Prof. Noriko MURAI, one of the founding members of the IAML Japan, and she read a message from Prof. Kazuyuki TOYAMA, the first president. The discussions at the meeting were quite active and offered a good chance to review the historical background and achievements of the Branch. It was also a good occasion to think about problems in future, particularly efforts to increase the members of the Branch and to encourage young generations of music librarians, as well as a close cooperation of music librarians, musicologists and persons related music information and documentation.

Masakata Kanazawa
President, IAML (Japan)