Switzerland, report 2011

The last annual conference was held on 27 August 2010 at the Zentralbibliothek Solothurn. Hans-Rudolf Binz spoke on the important music collection and Hans-Rudolf Dürrenmatt looked back on its history. Pio Pellizzari (director of the Fonoteca Nazionale Lugano) chaired a round table on sound recordings and digital preservation. The meeting was followed by a guided tour through the library and the rara collection. The historical music collection consists of about 5,000 prints and 500 manuscripts from the seventeenth to twentieth centuries, mainly from 1750 to 1850. Some liturgical books date from before 1600. Main parts come from the former St. Ursen-Stift and its institutes, the collegium of the Jesuits and the monastery of the Franciscans.

The board of IAML Switzerland met twice, on 17 November 2010 and 10 May 2011, in Berne. Besides the usual business the lack of special education for music librarians in Switzerland was discussed and the complex situation of cataloguing rules due the different languages and library networks in Switzerland. The board decided to discuss these problems at the next annual conference to be held in St. Gall on 23 September at the Stiftsbibliothek. The board decided to support a critical comment from the Fonoteca Nazioanle Lugano to the report on the cultural tasks published the Federal Office of Culture in 2010 (Bundesamt für Kultur BAK). The Fonoteca Nazionale is proposing the development of a concept for memo politics of the government including audiovisual documents. The critical comment by the Conseil Suisse de la Musique is also supported reminding that music collections are not mentioned and have to be added to the text.

The IAML congress in Dublin was attended by several Swiss colleagues. Next IAML congress in Montreal from 22 to 27 July 2012 unfortunately but, as it seems, inevitably, it is again rather close to the 19th International Congress of the IMS in Rome from 1 to 7 July 2012.

IAML Switzerland at the end of 2010 counted 54 members: 38 corporate members and 16 personal members. At the next annual meeting in St. Gall, the President, Dorothea Baumann, will step down after seven years of office. She wishes to thank Swiss and international IAML colleagues for help, support and friendship.

Dorothea Baumann
President, IAML (Switzerland)