

Belgium / België / Belgique – Belgian Federal institutions and Belgian French-speaking institutions or members

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Membership

In June 2023, the Belgian Federal institutions being IAML members are: the Royal Library of Belgium and the Musical Instruments Museum (MIM). The Belgian French-speaking institutions are: the research centre 'Musiques & Recherches', the conservatories of Brussels, Mons, and Liège, as well as Brussels, Louvain-la-Neuve and Liège universities.

Acquisitions

In 2022-2023, the Royal Library of Belgium had the opportunity to enrich its music collections with music autographs by César Franck and Henry Vieuxtemps as well as to receive in deposit from the King Baudouin Foundation the archives of the Belgian composer Albert Dupuis (1877-1967) (scores, letters, photographs and concert programs). In September 2022, the city of Verviers has entrusted an ensemble of precious music documents coming from the Verviers Conservatory (autographs by Lekeu, Vieuxtemps, Crickboom and Ysaÿe) to the Royal Library for cataloguing and digitization.

The library of the Royal Conservatories of Brussels acquired letters and music scores by Fétis, Stravinsky and Liszt and the library of the Musical Instruments Museum (MIM) archival documents from instruments collectors Boulanger-Bouhière, d'Hoker and Stolk.

Digitization

In 2022-2023, the Royal Library of Belgium continued its running digitization projects concerning music, with new references from the Fétis, Ysaÿe, Arthur Grumiaux and Albert Dupuis collections as well as from his sound archives.

The Royal Conservatories of Brussels and Liège also continued their digitization projects, according to the researchers' and musicians' requests. The Musical Instruments Museum (MIM) is also involved in a program of digitization concerning some plans of instruments as well as Charles Mahillon's archives.

Cataloging

In 2022-2023, Musiques & Recherches continued to describe new works and publications into the database Électrodoc. This database, including books, periodicals, electro-acoustic works, and audio-visual formats, is in a process of improving. The library of the Royal Conservatories of Brussels continued to encode new descriptions (retro and new acquisitions) visible through the online catalog, having reached nearly 200,000 descriptions. The Musical Instruments Museum (MIM) library continued to use Limo (LIBISnet) for cataloging, while the Royal conservatories of Liège and Mons continued to encode documents through PMB.

Projects

To promote their musical heritage, the Royal Conservatory of Brussels and the Royal Library of Belgium participated to edited scores and organised concerts, exhibitions, conferences, as well as thematic courses for Master degree students; the two institutions put a focus on César Franck sources in the framework of the Bicentenary, as well as on the Belgian violinist and composer Mathieu Crickboom; they are also involved into the improvement of Wikipedia pages concerning Belgian musical figures linked to their collections. The conference "Musicological Research in Belgium" organized for the 75th anniversary of the Belgian Musicological Society has taken place in the Royal Library on 10 October 2022.

RILM and RISM

The Music Division of the Royal Library is the Belgian seat for the international RILM and RISM projects and participates actively by encoding new publications and descriptions.