



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)

Belgium, report 2007

Retrospective cataloguing is for many music institutions in Belgium still a work in progress as well as upgrading the available electronic information. Here follows a selection of initiatives with international relevance. The Royal Library started this year with making electronic descriptions of audio material. The music department updated its webpages and added descriptions of special collections (www.kbr.be). Resonant started a localization project for liturgical music prints from 1600 in Flanders and Brussels. In the meantime the inventory of the Archbishop's Archive in Mechelen is completed and available through different webpages among them the database of RISM (www.resonant.be). Matrix, New Music Documentation Centre, published a free repertoire list *Flemish Symphonic Music since 1950* (www.matrix-nieuwe-muziek.be) and the Research Centre for Flemish Music started with adding English translations of composer's biographies to its website (www.svm.be).

In December 2006 the Belgian Society for Musicology organised an international colloquium devoted to the musicologist and collector François Joseph Féti's. Some presentations focused on interesting documents from his private music collection, another on his role in developing the Brussels Conservatoire library. The acta will be published in the next issue of the *Revue belge de Musicologie*.

On the occasion of the centenary of birth of the famous nineteenth-century cello player Adrien François Servais a new website is launched providing information on publications and recordings of music by Servais. The site contains also a list of his compositions (www.servais-vzw.org).

RIPM Belgium has a new partner. The Royal Flemish Conservatoire of Antwerp started with the indexing of *Le Novateur, écho des arts*, a small but interesting Antwerp periodical published in 1838–1839.

Digitisation became a very important issue in the library environment. It is not exaggerated to state that every library uses scanning technology and most of them are involved in one or even more digitisation projects. The problem is no longer "how to scan" but rather "what to scan and what do with all that digital material". An overall vision on this topic is lacking, especially in the field of art and music libraries. This topic will be discussed during the September conference of the general Flemish Library Association (www.vvbad.be). In the meantime there are already some interesting project results. The project DEKKMMA digitized the ethnomusicological sound archive of the Belgian Africa Museum. It contains more than 3,000 hours of traditional music from Congo, Rwanda and other African countries, recorded from 1910 on. The collection is considered as one of the most important music archives for the music of Central Africa. The project website, although still in development, is available on <http://music.africamuseum.be>.

Johan Eeckeloo
IAML (Belgium)