



Italy, report 1996

Since the end of the IAML Conference in Perugia we have been more and more involved in the statement of our presence in Italy and in the definition of the role of IAML Italia. It might seem strange for a professional association, but in Italy the librarian, in general, is still an *obscure object*. This is why our chief interests have been politics and professional training.

In October 1996 we spent a week in Turin with a IAML Italia exhibition stand at the first "Salone della musica." During the week we organized a roundtable on the subject Music and the National Libraries Network: Cooperation between Ministries. Representatives of the two ministries responsible for libraries explained a projected convention to be tried out by the biggest Conservatory libraries. Many music librarians were there; our initiative was successful, and we caught some new members. Unfortunately, after a few months a sudden change in the high officials of the Ministry of Education stopped the most interesting part of the project. During the spring we were consulted by the "Accademia Nazionale di Danza" in Rome regarding the management and organization of different materials for teachers such as books, CDs, photos, costumes, etc. Again in Rome we participated in the presentation of the new guides for cataloguing music-printed and manuscript-in the SBN (Servizio Bibliotecario Nazionale) edited by "ICCU" (Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico delle Biblioteche), while in Cremona a paper on the development of the music librarian was read during a conference organized by the University of Pavia on new professions related to music.

IAML Italia has been formally qualified to instruct teachers of secondary and high schools in the management of libraries using the national network. In June 1997, with the cultural department of Regione Lombardia, we organized a week-long seminar in Bergamo to bring music librarians up-to-date. Some 60 participants from all Italy and from different kind of libraries participated in the course. We are collecting their observations and their proposals for our future activity.

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