



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)

Italy, report 2012

National branch news

For the first time the national branch held its annual assembly and its conference in two separate meetings. The first was held in May in Florence; the second will take place in autumn in Naples where we will present the proceedings of the IAML conference held in Naples in 2008, published in Italian by LIM, which includes 27 papers on the Italian music heritage presented by Italian and non-Italian authors. Another reason to move the meeting to the autumn is to report to the branch about the annual IAML international conference, just after it took place. Board elections for the next three years term will also take place. In 2011, IAML-Italia had 130 members: 79 institutional; 51 individual members. We had no relevant decrease in our membership, so far. The President is Federica Riva (Conservatorio di musica 'L. Cherubini', Firenze), the Vice-President is Marcello Eynard (Biblioteca civica 'A. Mai', Bergamo), and the Secretary/Treasurer is Federica Biancheri (Casa della Musica, Parma). Gianmario Merizzi (Biblioteca del Dipartimento di Arti Musica e Spettacolo dell'Università degli studi di Bologna) is our webmaster who takes care of the national website at www.iamlitalia.it

Conferences

Two international conferences were organized in Italy during the year: the 19th congress of the International Musicological Society (IMS) took place in Rome, at the Parco della musica, from 1-7 July 2012, <www.ims2012.net/programme>, where the Italian musicologist Dinko Fabris was elected IMS President for the next term; and the seminar *Global Interoperability and Linked Data in Libraries*, organized by the University of Florence, Prof. Mauro Guerrini, and promoted by several institutions – among them ICCU and the European project Linked Heritage - was held in Florence on 18-19 June 2012. The proceedings of the seminar have already been published in a provisional issue of JLIS, the Italian Journal of Library and Information science (leo.cilea.it/index.php/jlis/issue/view/368/showToc).

Cataloguing Rules

The final version of the Italian rules for cataloguing music documents (printed music, librettos, and sound recordings) will be released in its final version in July 2012 (see also Italian reports in *Fontes artis musicae* 57/4 (2010), p. 410 and 58/4 (2011), p. 424). The guide was prepared by the ICCU study group on music; it will be available online and in print, on sale at a low cost expressly to facilitate readers to buy it, notwithstanding the economic crisis. The next aim of the ICCU study group on music is to update the cataloguing code on uniform title for music documents, further developing the 2006 draft already published on the ICCU website (www.iccu.sbn.it).

Archives and Music



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In February 2012 the portal Sistema Archivistico Nazionale (SAN), (san.beniculturali.it), the national archival system, was inaugurated by the Direzione Generale Archivi del Ministro per i Beni e le attività culturali (www.archivi.beniculturali.it). The portal connects data previously published in several different online and printed repertoires on Italian archives, dealing with State Archives (Archivi di Stato), State offices of the Ministry that oversee regional archives (Soprintendenze regionali archivistiche), archives of state institutions, and private archives. SAN develops information through a further census of Italian archival holdings and by collecting digital objects of archival documents; census data, digital objects and some informative texts are accessible through a number of thematic portals devoted to those topics, for example, to music, fashion in the 20th century, research registry, architects, business archives, terrorism and political violence in Italy, and so on. SAN participates to the Archives Portal Europe (APEnet) project.

The portal ‘Archivi della musica,’ focused at its birth (2010) on relevant Italian music personalities of the 20th century, enlarged its scope beyond the past century. It was inaugurated in Rome on 18th June 2012; here an agreement with Casa Ricordi was also announced. The role of the IAML national branch is to help the project to develop contacts at national level and to improve connections with international music projects on archives promoted by IAML.

Music Libraries

As many scholars and librarians have experienced, some historical holdings in Italian Conservatories have never been easily accessible. In some case, this was also due to the fact that libraries were administrated by two different institutions, each owning part of the heritage. The trend to put different music collections together in one music library started with the unification of the Italian states in the 1860s; at that time Conservatory libraries were intended to be the natural access point to the music heritage preserved in public institutions. This perspective proved to be unrealistic, so relevant libraries have been recently divided, as follows:

- In Rome the Bibliomediateca dell’Accademia nazionale di Santa Cecilia (RISM siglum: I-Rama), preserving also the Accademia’s archive (since 1651), moved all collections in 2005 to the new seat at the Parco della Musica, separating them from the library of the Conservatorio di musica S. Cecilia (RISM siglum: I-Rsc), which is still located in via dei Greci. The conservatory library still includes part of the ancient collection, as 43,300 volumes of 1880-1925 legal deposit, and 21,000 librettos of the Carvalhaes collection, and much more. Cataloguing in SBN Opac is continuously updated in both libraries: I-Rama: no catalogue items SBN code RM1316: 63,354 catalogued items of which 6,931 are manuscripts; I-Rsc: 3,815 catalogue items; SBN code RM0266: 47,736 catalogued items, of which 7,640 are manuscripts (among them also some now in I-Rama).
- In Bologna the well-known Museo internazionale e biblioteca della Musica, (Rism siglum: I-Bc, once Civico museo bibliografico musicale) physically moved the museum collections to the new seat in Palazzo Sanguinetti di Strada Maggiore, but kept the music collections in the old location. The museum moved in 2004; in June 2012 library services (not the collections) also moved to the new seat. At the same time the library of the Conservatorio di musica ‘G.B. Martini’ (Rism siglum: I-BI) started a relevant cataloguing



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project to make its own collections available through the SBN Opac. This little-known library (ca. 45,000 units) includes music, musicological literature, recent donations, and the Verdi-Waldaman correspondence (1873-1900). Cataloguing data available for the two libraries in Bologna are: RISM I-Bc: 23 catalogue items (SBN code BO0310): 34,023 catalogue items, of which 6,089 are manuscript; RISM I-BI: not yet used; (SBN code BO0516): 5,914 catalogue items, of which 1,033 are manuscripts.

Both conservatory libraries in Rome and Bologna preserve also relevant collection of music in Braille, as both music schools had a special 'sezione per ciechi' (section for blind people).

Another relevant cataloguing effort in the library of Conservatorio di musica 'G. Rossini' in Pesaro, founded in 1882, where there are preserved documents also claimed by the Fondazione Rossini. The ongoing project has already a result visible in the SBN OPAC; I-PESc (SBN code PU0067): 5,352 catalogue items of which 15 are manuscripts, while manuscripts items catalogued in RISM online are 51

Researchers should be aware that access to these collections is now much easier through the SBN OPAC catalogue, where libraries are clearly separated through their codes, than through older printed card catalogue, still available in libraries, or in collective catalogues where the signatures have not yet been updated. This warning includes the online URFM Catalogo nazionale dei manoscritti musicali redatti fino al 1900 (www.urfm.braidense.it/cataloghi/catalogomss.php), founded by Claudio Sartori, and RISM online.

Something similar can be reported on the library of the Conservatorio di musica 'San Pietro a Majella' in Naples: the 2001-2010 cataloguing and reordering project physically moved half of the collections, estimated to be 300,000 items in all. Updated callmarks of the reordered documents are available only in the SBN Opac but not in the library card catalogue. SBN code: NA0059; 76,109 catalogue items among them 29,327 are manuscripts; RISM siglum I-Nc: 3,617 catalogue items. . A further estimated 20,000 records, are not yet public: they are not yet published in Opac SBN, due to technical problems connected with the evolution of the system, or in other website or OPAC problems).

There are concerns about the heritage preserved in the Biblioteca Oratoriana del Monumento Nazionale dei Girolamini in Naples, founded in 1586, administrated under the direct control of the central office for libraries of the Ministero dei beni culturali (RISM siglum: I-Nf: no items catalogued; SBN code NA0075; 22,000 records among them 521 are printed music records, no manuscript catalogued). In May 2012, its director, Massimo Marino De Caro and four other persons were put in jail, accused of having stolen at least 257 old books. Some of the books have already been sold abroad, most likely in the United States, Great Britain and Japan. In April, the Italian national branch signed a public petition promoted by the Italian Library Association to remove the director from his state job. It has still to be determined if the theft involves the music preserved in the library.



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Since January 2012, more than 4,000 manuscript items of the Pitti collection preserved in the library of the Conservatorio di musica 'L. Cherubini' in Florence reached also the SBN Opac, while 2000 prints are available at present only on the Conservatory website (www.conservatorio.firenze.it/index.php?id=24). The Pitti collections (mainly 18th and 19th century) includes also many German editions, collected by the Granduke of Tuscany, Ferdinando II, during his exile (RISM siglum: I-Fc: no manuscript items catalogued; SBN codeFI0035: 14,039 catalogue items of which 4,275 are manuscripts (Pitti collection); 9,000 items of the general collection are still without call marks). The library reading room, closed since the flood in 1966, reopened in 2008; one of its primary activities in 2012-2013 is the re-creation of the reading room collections, which have not been updated in the past 50 years. There is a need to buy a great number of books, especially thematic catalogues, publisher's catalogues, and catalogues of music repertoires related to specific medium of performance, all of them related to the European history of music. Public institutions interested in exchange of such materials will receive from the library the entire series of the *Atti dell'Accademia di musica L. Cherubini* (1864-1934), unbound copies of which have been stored in the library stocks since their publication.

Fewer than half of the manuscript collection in the library of the Conservatorio di musica 'Bellini' in Palermo has been catalogued on paper cards available in the library (a copy of them is preserved in the library of the Music section of the Agalaia Department in the Università di Palermo), but in 2011 the library entered the SBN system. (Rism siglum: I-PLcon: 159 manuscripts catalogued; SBN code: PA0093; 1,176 catalogued items, no manuscripts). The collection also preserves manuscript materials from the local Teatro Carolino, including opera scores and cantatas. Recent findings concern unica and autographs: two unknown cantatas by Donizetti and an unknown quintet from the first act of Rossini's *La gazzetta* (the only *opera buffa* written by him in Naples), which is part of a miscellaneous manuscript including two other Rossini's autographs, and two autographs by Donizetti and Pietro Generali, respectively. See Philip Gossett and Dario Lo Cicero, 'Tre autografi sconosciuti rossiniani e la collezione della Biblioteca del Conservatorio di Palermo' in *Rivista italiana di musicologia*, 47 (2012).

The Music Department of the German Institute of History in Rome (www.dhi-roma.it/musica), supported by the German Research Funding DFG, continue to host the digitization project of Italian manuscript opera scores dating from the 18th to the beginning 19th century. The project focuses on two private collections from the Roman aristocratic families Doria Pamphilj and Massimo, still preserved in their palaces in Rome with restricted access. Data about the two libraries are: Biblioteca private and Archivio Doria Pamphili: RISM siglum: I-Rdp (1 catalogue item); SBN Opac code: RM1306 (937 catalogued items, of which 874 are manuscripts); Biblioteca private principi Massimo RISM siglum I-Rmassimo: 3 catalogued items; the library is without SBN code yet. Double digital copies (.tiff files for long-term storage and .pdf files for users' access) will be stored on the server of the DHI and can be studied on request in the public music research library of the institute. Key data and information, such as the manuscript's date of origin, the performance dates of the operas, their structure and instrumentation, along with *incipits* of all musical numbers, will be included in the online RISM *International Inventory of Music sources* (A/II). The project was presented during a poster session at the IAML conference 2010 in Moscow. Further on, some considerations about Roman copyist's hands documented in



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the collection's sources were discussed a paper presented at the IAML conference 2011 in Dublin. [Roland Pfeiffer \(link sends e-mail\)](#) is the project leader responsible and contact person.

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