

The Netherlands / Nederland

The worrying situation of music library work in The Netherlands has continued without abate. Due to political developments, there is no definitive solution yet for the housing of the collections of the Netherlands Music Institute, which contain a large collection of archival materials forming a unique source of information on Dutch music history and an important collection of old and rare printed music and books on music. The Institute was closed in September 2013 and its materials put into storage. The same is true for the music library of the Dutch public broadcasting companies, which is of very high quality and is of great historical interest from another point of view: among other things, the complete popular music repertory performed by Dutch radio and television ensembles since ca. 1920 can be found in this library, making it a treasure trove for research on popular music culture and music and media. In the public library sector, several music librarians have retired without being replaced. Their tasks are often taken over by more generally qualified colleagues, for instance, specialists in media and culture. Although such a broad outlook certainly has its advantages, it may also lead to the loss of badly needed expertise.

However, there are also some positive developments to be reported. In Arnhem, the capital of the province of Gelderland, a beautiful new multifunctional complex named “De Rozet” (The Rosette) was opened. In this building, which was named after its architectural ornaments, the Public Library, the Gelderland Heritage Center, and the Arnhem Historical Museum are housed together. These institutions’ services and collections will be integrated and coordinated. And as a result of the merger of their two umbrella organizations, the PBAM and Muziek Uitleen en Informatiecentrum libraries, both specialized in the field of ensemble music and brass and wind band music, merged into the Musidesk service, the result being a forceful organization that will certainly be very effective in delivering specialized services. Furthermore, our colleague Simon Groot (Amsterdam University Library, Special Collections department) has taken the initiative to revive Dutch RISM

activities, while our Board member and IAML Past-President Martie Severt is investigating the possibilities for renewed Dutch input in RILM.

Two study days were held, on 26 November 2013 and 20 May 2014 respectively, both attended by some forty persons.

The November 2013 study day, held at the Public Library of Arnhem, was devoted to the theme *Fully on the Move*. The new Rozet complex and its residents were the focus of the morning's work. Our Arnhem colleagues, Pieter Goossen and Corine Raats, gave us an extended tour through the building and told us about the Arnhem Public Library approach. Books are selected for the open stacks on the basis of lending statistics and are placed in three "worlds", one of them being "Art and Culture". 5% of them are placed "frontally" (that is, with a visible front cover.) There are always librarians walking around in the collection, so that they can easily be approached by patrons. As for the printed music collection, the cooperation with Kunstbedrijf, the Arnhem music school also housed in De Rozet, is important and will be intensified.

After lunch, Joost van Gemert (Utrecht University Library) informed us about developments in the Dutch university libraries, presenting Utrecht University library as a case study. University libraries 'no longer hold a monopoly position when it comes to providing scientific information. At the same time, students and professors need support during all phases of their work (from finding and processing information to publishing the results.) The University library can and does have an advisory role with regard to all these aspects, for instance, possibilities for Open Access publishing. Utrecht University Library has now made more than 50 Libguides on subjects as diverse as search strategies, working with specialized disciplinary databases, Refworks, data management, copyright issues, and so on.

The May 2014 study day was held in the Public Library of Rotterdam. In the morning, the General Assembly was held. After lunch, our Rotterdam colleague, Cora Mulder, told us about music in the Public Library of Rotterdam. Since 1992, music collections and music

specialists have been moved into new contexts as a result of several reorganizations. Although it wasn't always easy, solutions have been found to maintain an adequate level of service. Training for colleagues having no music expertise was also provided. After Cora's presentation, Margreet Theunissen, director of the Centrale Discotheek Rotterdam (CDR) (Central Record Library of Rotterdam) spoke about the history and present activities of this institution. Since the CDR's start in the early sixties, it has always been its policy to buy as many of the commercially available music records and CDs as possible. CDR could do this on the basis of their income from lending fees. This collection is now the basis for their successful streaming service Muziekweb, which was approved by the Dutch music copyright organization BUMA/STEMRA and which is available (for a fee) to everyone. Margreet passionately argued that music libraries should take new initiatives themselves: according to her that is the way to success, as the CDR example has proven. The last speaker was Brigit van Berkel, product manager for the National Library Catalogue, which is being produced as a joint venture of the Royal Library and the Dutch public library community. She informed us about the progress being made in this project, especially with regard to music resources.

NVMB had 46 institutional members and 9 personal members on 1 January 2014. The President is Jantien Dubbeldam, the Secretary is Nienke de Boer, the Treasurer is Martie Severt. The Board Members-at-Large are Cora Mulder, Ria Warmerdam, and Joost van Gemert. There were three most informative issues of the newsletter, *Nieuwsbrief*, edited by Ria Warmerdam. The Program Committee will continue its work, in close cooperation with the Board. The Committees on Copyright, on Training, and on Sheet Music were disbanded by the General Assembly. The reason for this was that it had become very difficult for the members to spend sufficient time on these committee's activities, due to the severe reductions of music library staff. For the same reason, NVMB's activities will generally be more project-based.

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