



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)

The Netherlands / Nederland - Report 2015

The general situation of music library work in the Netherlands has remained more or less the same as in 2013-2014.

The number of public library music collections and the number of specialized music librarians working in the public library sector has dwindled, due to budget cuts and retirement. Music librarians' 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, practical solutions may sometimes be found by using the colleagues' collective wisdom and expertise. And, of course, many activities continue to be undertaken: these vary from refreshing ways of presenting the collection (e.g., music scores being placed "frontally", that is, with a visible front cover) and offering several kinds of listening and playing facilities to cooperation with local cultural institutions.

The collections of the Nederlands Muziek Instituut (Netherlands Music Institute), which contain a large collection of archival materials forming a unique source of information on Dutch musical history and an important collection of old and rare printed music and books on music, are now being housed in the Municipal Archives of The Hague. Although this is not an ideal solution from a music librarians' point of view, the future of the collections and their availability are now safeguarded. An important occasion that underlined this was the official conveyance of the archive of the Dutch composer Alphons Diepenbrock (1862-1921) by the Diepenbrock family to the Alderman for Culture of The Hague on 27 March 2015. This conveyance took



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place during a wonderful Diepenbrock concert by a number of gifted pupils of the Royal Conservatory of The Hague.

There is no definitive solution yet for the housing of the music library of the Dutch public broadcasting companies, which is of very high quality and is of great historic interest. Among other things, the complete popular music repertory performed by Dutch radio and television ensembles since *ca.* 1920 can be found there, making it a treasure trove for research on popular music culture and music and media.

The University libraries of Amsterdam and Utrecht continue to deliver their services to the Musicology departments of these universities. As is now customary for a University library, they offer not only collections but also facilities for managing data and literature, information literacy courses, and advice on publishing and copyright. As for the university library collections, digitized source materials and e-books are becoming more and more important.

It turned out to be no simple matter to revive Dutch RISM and RILM activities, however, Simon Groot (Amsterdam University Library, Special Collections department) and Martie Severt (Board member, IAML Past President) are trying to get these projects going again.

On 12 February 2015 the book *Muziek lezen met de vingers; de geschiedenis van het muziekbibliotheekwerk voor mensen met een visuele beperking* (Reading Music with your Fingers: A History of Music Library Work for the Visually Disabled) by Ad van der Waals was presented at the Zwolle City Library. On this occasion, our Board member Martie Severt, who founded the Nederlandse Vereniging van Muziekbibliotheken (NVMB) in 1996, gave a presentation on the present state and prospects of music library work in The Netherlands.



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The NVMB organizes two membership sessions each year, which have been known up until as “Study Days”. As networking during these days is as important as studying, the Board has decided to rename them as “Network Meetings”. A Network Meeting, devoted to the theme *The Changing Library Landscape*, was held on 27 November 2014 at the Rijnbrink Groep in Arnhem. The Rijnbrink Groep is itself an example of this: it is a merger of several libraries in the East of the Netherlands, among which are three music libraries. In the morning, the Arnhem lawyer Mark Jansen gave a very instructive talk about the complex matter of copyright for sheet music (in printed or digital form). After lunch another aspect of the changing library landscape stood on the agenda, namely, the new Dutch Law on Public Libraries. From now on, The Royal Library will play a coordinating role in the Dutch public library landscape, e.g., in maintaining a database (on the basis of WorldCat) through which the collections of public libraries, university libraries, other relevant libraries, and relevant digital resources (e.g., for music, IMSLP) can be searched. Johan Stapel (Royal Library), who is in charge of this project, gave a talk about this and wholeheartedly admitted that he and his colleagues had insufficient expertise to cope with the field of music. He welcomed the idea of NVMB President Jantien Dubbeldam to create a Facebook page *Muziek in de Nationale Bibliotheekcatalogus* (Music in the National Library Catalogue), through which he and his colleagues can ask questions of the music librarians’ community and all music librarians can contribute their expertise. This Facebook page is up and running now! The last talk of the day was given by Marianne Butijn and Douwe Zuidema, the two librarians of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. They gave a very informative talk about using and, at the same time, protecting a historical and (partly) museological performance collection. They spoke about ways of coping with conductors’ and musicians’ wishes, balancing between copyright and practical necessities, and other aspects of their jobs. After this, our host



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Anne Marie Roetgerink gave us an extended tour through the Rijnbrink Group building. And of course there was a drink and a lot of networking to conclude. The next Network Meeting, devoted to the theme *Focus on the Patron*, will be held on 19 May 2015 at Utrecht University Library.

NVMB had 45 institutional members and 10 personal members on 1 January 2015. Sadly, our member Ank Schonewille passed away after a long illness. She was a long-standing member of the NVMB and had a distinguished career as Music librarian of the Zwolle Conservatory.

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. Jantien Dubbeldam edited a wonderful issue of *Fontes Artis Musicae* (vol. 61/3) on the special topic *When Music Goes Digital*, together with Katie Lai from Hong Kong. There were three most informative issues of the Newsletter, edited by Ria Warmerdam. The Program Committee and the Committee on Sheet Music continued their work, in close cooperation with the Board.

Joost van Gemert

Board Member, IAML (The Netherlands) (NVMB)