



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)

New Zealand, report 2000

President's Report, August 2000

The 17th AGM of the New Zealand Branch of IAML was held in July 1999 at Wellington Public library, by courtesy of the Branch Secretary, Joan Clayton, and the City librarian. To take advantage of the presence of so many New Zealand members attending the International IAML Conference, it had been decided to hold the AGM immediately after the Conference proper, since it was unlikely that our institutions, no matter how supportive, would fund staff to gather for a second conference in the same financial year.

Equal parts of elation and exhaustion seemed to pervade the atmosphere at the AGM, although the only outward sign of any post-conference trauma was the president's inability to speak. Too much talking throughout the previous seven days had taken its toll, and the President's Annual Report was kindly read by Vice-President Brian Pritchard.

A new Executive was elected from our Auckland members although, due to the complexities of handling the aftermath of the Conference, it was decided that they would not take office until January 2000. Lisa Allcott of the Auckland University School of Music Library was elected President, and Marilyn Hayr of Auckland City Libraries took on the duties of Secretary. The position of Treasurer was filled by Freda Blanchard, formerly Head Librarian at the Auckland Institute of Technology.

After the excitement generated by the Wellington Conference, the new century began badly for the New Zealand Branch of IAML with the passing of Dorothy Freed, the "mover and shaker" of music librarianship in New Zealand and founder of the national branch. In many ways her timing was as immaculate as ever. She saw the realisation of one of her dreams when New Zealand hosted an international IAML Conference, and she was well enough to take an active role both in the planning stages and in the conference programme itself. The many tributes that arrived from her colleagues and friends in IAML were a sign of the esteem and affection in which she was held. An obituary and some of the tributes were reprinted in the Branch journal *Crescendo*, and Roger Flury spoke on behalf of IAML at her funeral.

Another long-time member of IAML passed away during 2000. Angela Annabel had been a loyal supporter of the New Zealand Branch, and had once held the office of Treasurer. Her particular interests were in early New Zealand music, and her research in that area has been invaluable. Her research papers and score collections will be deposited with the Turnbull and National Libraries respectively.

Although not a member of IAML, John Mansfield Thomson had been a major presence in the musical life of New Zealand. His passing has deprived us of an eloquent, forceful and loyal defender of music libraries. We were fortunate and grateful that John was able to present two papers at the Wellington Conference, despite being in a fragile state of health at the time.



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On a brighter note, the revamped branch journal *Crescendo*, under the editorship of Lisa Allcott, continues to play an important role in linking our scattered membership. We are delighted to acknowledge the continuing support of the Lilburn Trust and Blackwell's Music Library Services, without whom *Crescendo* could not be published. Canterbury Public Library has kindly agreed to continue hosting our Branch website, which was established by Tim Jones for the 1999 Conference Programme - another positive spin-off from the Wellington Conference.

Financially the Branch is in good heart, and we look forward to being able to apply our resources to projects that will in some way benefit music librarianship in New Zealand. We are always keen to increase our membership, and at our next AGM and Seminar we will be addressing these two issues.

Our next AGM will be held in Christchurch on 19-20 October 2000 and will, for the first time, be spread over two days. One of the complaints about previous conferences has been the lack of time to discuss issues of real concern, and we welcome the opportunity to spend a little longer together. The Branch continues to contribute to RILM through abstracts submitted by staff of the National Library's Music Room. During the year Ruth Lightbourne was seconded to the staff and has happily agreed to take over responsibility for submitting RILM abstracts.

Apart from hosting the 1999 Conference, the Branch managed one other significant achievement this year with the preparation of a New Zealand-focused issue of *Fontes Artis Musicae*. Our thanks go to Dr Brian Pritchard of Canterbury University for taking on the responsibility for soliciting and editing articles, and to all those who found time in their busy schedules to actually write them.

With a new and enthusiastic Executive in place, the New Zealand Branch can look forward to a stimulating and challenging three years.

Lisa Allcott

President, New Zealand Branch