



Poland, report 1996

The activity of the Polish National Branch of IAML concentrated on two problems: 1: the proper and uniform interpretation by libraries of the rules of the new copyright law issued on February 4, 1994 (obligatory from May 4, 1994); and 2: automation of everyday functions in particular music libraries of different kinds (or music departments in general libraries).

The above mentioned copyright law, which aims to protect the rights of all persons who deal with the production and propagation of music—for instance, the composer, publisher, performer, producer of a recording, copyist, and others—considerably limited the availability of collections in libraries. In practice it became obvious that the new rules are being used in various ways by different libraries according to the character of their function. Such a situation created a need for the organization of music librarians to meet with lawyers and specialists in the authors' right in the field of music. Such a meeting was held in the National Library in Warsaw on October 18, 1995. The invited lawyer specialists represented the Law Faculty of the Warsaw University, the Polish Music Publishing House in Cracow, and the Union of Audio-Video Producers. The meeting was preceded by a questionnaire sent to 37 music libraries to help them to present their concerns precisely. The answers were sent to the three consultant specialists invited to the meeting. Questions presented by the libraries concerned such problems as: studying composers' autographs in a reading room, supplying microfilms or xeroxes for the use of a reader, supplying microfilms or xeroxes of fragments from published books or music ordered by a reader, the copying of orchestral parts for the use of an ensemble. In the area of sound recordings, librarians questioned their playing for the public or for private use, the copying of discs, and finally royalties which might be due if a music work has been performed. All these problems were important for the 33 music librarians representing music libraries of different kinds who participated in the Oct. 18 meeting. The consultant specialists called librarians' attention to specific tasks of music libraries which differ according to the nature of the institution. The tasks for research libraries for instance, are not the same as those for conservatory or for public libraries.

Such a situation leads to different interpretations of the authors' right law. The consultants noted that the library is the owner of the document but not of the work. They examined all the concerns expressed by the libraries and they gave advice and commentary also on additional questions proposed during the discussion. However, some questions cannot be resolved in an uniform way.



The music librarians' second concern, the automation of everyday functions, has achieved the most progress in the libraries of music academies. But it proved impossible to organize a meeting devoted to this problem in 1995. It has been put off to May 1996 in Wroclaw in the Music Academy Main Library.

The delegation representing Polish music libraries at the 17th IAML Congress in Helsingør (Denmark) June 18-23, 1995 consisted of two persons: Barbara Zakrzewska-Nikiporczyk (Biblioteka Uniwersytecka, Poznan), member of IAML Council and chair of the Polish National RILM Committee, and Elzbieta Wojnowska (Biblioteka Narodowa, Zaklad Zbiorow Muzycznych, Osrodek RISM). Our colleague Izabela Zymer (Biblioteka-Fonoteka of the Union of Polish Composers) also participated in sessions of IAMIC.

From June 24 to 30 of 1996, with the collaboration of the RISM centers, Jolanta Byczkowska-Sztaba and Elzbieta Wojnowska from the Warsaw National Library visited the Library of the Moscow Conservatory. The object of the collaboration and common research has been established. It deals with the exchange of persons, computer cataloguing of church liturgical books, and publishing of common catalogues. The Polish contribution in the RIPM project has also been established. From November 27 to December 10, 1995 Barbara Zakrzewska-Nikiporczyk was trained at the RIPM Center at the University of Maryland in College Park. She has started work on the Polish periodical *Ruch Muzyczny 1857-1862*.

Włodzimierz Pięła, President

Sekcja Bibliotek Muzycznych SBP