Spain, report 2009

Our 2008 assembly was celebrated in March in Getxo in the Basque country. There we elected a new treasurer, Margarida Ullate, from the National Library of Catalonia. The board of AEDOM (Asociación Española de Documentación Musical) also presented our newly renovated annual bulletin. Its new design permits more sections and contents. Our bulletin, of around 100 pages, has been a part of AEDOM since its foundation and has found a solid place among the main sources for music documentation in Spanish language. It is probably one of the reasons we keep a steady number of very different institutions (85) and individuals (72) associated with our organization, and obviously we are interested in the continuous improvement of this publication.

We have also recently redesigned our internet site (www.aedom.org), in the spirit of Web 2.0, with Joomla free software. This kind of pages are harder to manage than the older, more static ones without a lot of collective collaboration; for the moment we have just a few web managers, but we do our best to keep our members informed about our activities. The site is used to provide them some interesting news on music documentation, from both national and international sources, as well as provide professional resources. We hope that, in the near future the web page will be more and more important for the relationship between board, working groups, and members. This year we are planning to link more directly our web page to the main IAML shared projects pages and show clearly our national branch status, but you will hear more about this in Moscow 2010.

Besides our more active orchestral archives and iconography groups, we started a new group to develop the Access to Music Archives project in Spain, headed by Jon Bagüés. Furthermore, we were invited by the Ministry of Culture to make formal suggestions towards future music legislation, so we also organized a specific group around this question.

In November 2008, we gave two courses in Bogotá, Colombia, about internet sources for music and music subject headings, in collaboration with the National Library of Colombia and the regional government of Valencia (Spain). There we met with a highly motivated collective of music librarians with a lot of experience in traditional music. This first contact opened the door to new projects in the future between Colombia and in Spain.

AEDOM passed its own particular crisis in recent times just before the financial worldwide crisis that now affects everyone. Our membership number decreased a bit but has stabilized around 160 members, with some indications that show that we have a real potential to become larger. Anyway, it’s difficult to make significant steps if we can’t find original ways to be attractive to younger members. I suspect we need to develop a new mentality as a collective with evolving needs and concerns, but we are still discussing it.

Jorge García
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