Switzerland, report 2008

At the end of 2007, ASCM / IAML Switzerland counted 52 members, 37 corporate members, 7 individual members, and 8 members of the Swiss Verein “Association des Collections Musicales” (ASCM). Following the decision of the General Assembly, the Swiss fees for IAML have been increased from 55 to 60 CHF for ordinary members and from 80 to 90 CHF for institutions.

The board of IAML Switzerland met in Berne on 7 September 2007 and on 24 May 2008. The joint annual conference with the German group of IAML on 19 to 21 September 2007 in Freiburg im Breisgau was a success. Twelve colleagues from Switzerland attended this conference, most of them for 2 or 3 days. Switzerland contributed to the programme a presentation of the Paul Sacher Stiftung by Tina Kilvio Tüscher and Dr. Heidy Zimmermann and papers on music in Swiss libraries and archives given by Jörg Müller, Gabriella Hanke Knaus and Dorothea Baumann. Among the several excursions, the trip to the Deutsche Volksliedarchiv presented by Barbara Boock will remain unforgettable. The excursion to the Paul Sacher Stiftung was quickly fully booked out as expected.

Several Swiss members went to the IAML conference, held in Naples from 20 to 25 July, and some of them gave papers. The President could only take part in the second half of the week. As usual, two lunch meetings were held in preparation of the next congress in Amsterdam which again will be a joint congress with IMS with a Symposium on „Music and Notation“.

During the closed meeting of RISM on Saturday, 26 July, RISM Switzerland announced the development of a new database programme in co-operation with RISM UK and the Distributed Digital Music Libraries and Archives Laboratory (DDMAL) at McGill University in Montreal, which is based on MARC 21 in order to fulfil conditions to keep national subventions. Since January 2008, RISM Switzerland is officially acknowledged as a National Research Center by the Swiss National Science Foundation. The Fonoteca Nazionale Lugano started to open on-line access to its digitized sound recordings from within several public libraries in Switzerland. Before the beginning of this new service, difficult copyright questions had to be solved. The first “listening spots” are available at the Zentralbibliothek Zürich and at the Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire Lausanne (see http://www.fonoteca.ch (link is external) ). In July 2008, the RIdIM database opened for beta testing. After this, persons and groups cataloguing iconographic documents significant to music may apply for password-protected access to the web-based database free of charge. The access to the database is provided via web-browser at www.ridim.org (link is external). The next General Assembly of IAML Switzerland will be held at the new library of the Musik-Akademie Basel on 18 September 2009.

Dorothea Baumann
President - IAML (Switzerland)