



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)

United Kingdom & Ireland, report 2006

In September last year the UK & Ireland Branch was shocked and saddened by the tragically early death of Ian Ledsham in a car crash. I hope to say more about Ian in the closing session this week.

In last year's report I announced that Geoff Thomason had stood down as editor of the Branch Journal, *Brio*, in order to take on the role of General Secretary. At the time of the Warsaw conference we were not sure who would take over from Geoff, but I'm delighted to announce that the new Editor of *Brio* is Rupert Ridgewell.

In early November the Branch held a joint conference with the Royal Musical Association, with the intention of forging stronger links between the communities of librarianship and musicology. Many of the papers emphasised the value of library collections to musicological research, and it was gratifying to see so many musicologists at the papers given by Branch members.

The Branch has continued its programme of responding to government calls for evidence on various topics. Some of these calls do not come directly to IAML, but we use our contacts in government and other areas of librarianship in order to ensure that our voice is heard. This year we have responded to the proposal to extend the term of copyright protection in sound recordings to 95 years, and Digital Rights Management which has accessibility implications for people with disabilities. Ruth Hellen and Richard Chesser have also met with the Patent Office and The Department of Culture, Media and Sport to discuss various aspects of copyright. Just this month we have responded to a call regarding standards in public libraries. It is particularly important that we raise the profile of music in public libraries, as it is a matter of interpretation whether or not music is considered to be a part of the core service.

The Cecilia database, which maps music collections in libraries, archives and museums in the UK and Ireland, now contains information from approximately 600 institutions. The database has undergone several developments this year, including a new feature of being able to search for collections by postcode. It receives around 6,000 visits per month and there is a link to it from the UK and Ireland Branch website. The Branch website itself has undergone an overhaul, in order to make maintenance easier, and make sure that we concur with industry standards. I don't understand the process, but luckily Antony Gordon, or AG as you know him, does, and the site looks great.

This will be my final national report, as I'm delighted to announce that Liz Hart will take over from me next year as Branch President.

Finally, although still several years away, work has already begun on preparations for the international conference in 2011, when we look forward to welcoming you all to Dublin.

Kathy Adamson