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MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION - MIDWEST CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

SPRING - 1987

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### THE 1986 MIDWEST CHAPTER MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the MLA Midwest Chapter was held in Evanston, Illinois, on October 9-10, on the beautiful campus of Northwestern University. Held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Chapter of the American Musicological Society, the meetings of these two groups served to surround and complement the landmark "Conference on Music Bibliography," with the final sessions concluding on Sunday, October 12, at 12:00 noon. By the time of the final meeting, the Northwestern Campus had seen the likes of a host of music librarians, scholars and historians, from not only the Midwest, but the entire nation. The Chapter is most grateful to Kären Nagy, past-editor of this organ and now of Stanford University, Richard Green of the Music Department at Northwestern, as well as Richard Griscom and Shirlene Ward of the Northwestern University Music Library, in particular, for a remarkable display of virtuosity in organization and presentation. Our thanks!!

On Thursday, October 9, open meetings of the Chapter's Bibliographic Instruction, Cataloging, and Preservation Committees were followed by the MLA Session I: Open Forum. Part I, entitled "Bibliography for Music Technical Services" was chaired by Laura Snyder (Oberlin College). Participants were given an opportunity to discuss current issues in music technical services, including works in progress, workflow and productivity (the issue of minimal-level cataloging was discussed at some length) and there were many comments related to library automation matters. Ms. Snyder presented her compilation of selected technical services articles and other publications for the period of 1980-1986. In Part II, "Reference and Public Services" Kiyo Suyematsu (Mankato State University) gave a brief presentation on the PALS online catalog at Mankato, in conjunction with the program of bibliographic instruction for incoming freshpersons. This prompted a host of questions and comments about the need in all systems for user-friendly "front end" detail, particularly as an assistance in the transition from a manual catalog, often a difficult and touchy issue for faculty members who may have little orientation to terminals. There were also comments about the need to continue user education during system updates, and a need for studies on the ideal numbers of terminals in music libraries.

Session II (7:30-9:30) was entitled "Music in On-line Catalogs" a presentation of the Chapter's Cataloging Committee, chaired by Ralph Papakhian (Indiana University). This valuable session presented a group of speakers and panelists, Chapter members all, who represented ten different online catalog systems. In preparation, panelists were asked to complete a five-page survey which enabled the panelists to address unilaterally the strengths and weaknesses of the various systems. Searching (for example, complex searches involving field combinations), filing order and arrangement in display, and cataloging and authority control capabilities were all explored. The solutions - or non-solutions - to these problems were revealed and discussed among the panelists and audience. Because of the variety of online systems now available and the complex music-related needs which vendors find difficult to master, this was a session of great currency and great interest.

Summaries of the sessions of the "Bibliography Conference"-proper have already appeared elsewhere. The MLA Midwest Chapter was well-represented in presentations by Beth Christensen (St. Olaf College), David Fenske, Michael Fling, and Kathryn Talalay (Indiana University), and Linda Fidler (Bowling Green State University) in Session II: Bibliographic Instruction, as well as by Don Krummel (University of Illinois) whose "The Varieties and Uses of Music Bibliography" served as the Keynote Address, and Don Roberts (Northwestern University) who gave the introduction.

At the Chapter Business Meeting on October 10, the following matters were presented:

Ralph Papakhian and the other members of the Cataloging Committee were acknowledged for the excellent session on On-line Catalogs. Beth Christensen reported that the Bibliographic Instruction Committee has broadened its scope to include music reference. An amended committee charge will follow. The Preservation Committee will be reorganized. The Small Academic Libraries Committee is in need of a new Chair. The Publications Committee, as reported by Carolyn Rabson (Oberlin College) has begun a file on a "Directory of Music Libraries in the Midwest." She called for volunteers to gather information for the various states represented. It was recommended that the publication be delayed until the national organization has completed its standards for such compilations, now in progress.

Kiyo Suyematsu, Chapter Treasurer, reported a balance of \$1504.93 in Checking, and \$501.96 in Savings. (Updated report follows.)

Katherine Holum, Chair (University of Minnesota) announced that negotiations with the University of Michigan are in progress for the location of the 1987 Chapter meeting.

Following the completion of elections, Beth Christensen was announced as the new Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect.

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

#### Membership Committee Report

Sixty members attended the Midwest Chapter meeting and Conference on Music Bibliography. There is now a total of 197 members in the Midwest Chapter. This year, public libraries have been targeted for special recruitment and distribution of information about the activities of the Midwest Chapter. The Committee is also working on a revised information brochure, updating old facts and figures. The members are: K. Suyematsu (Chair), Marty Rubin (Audio Buff Co., Inc.), Phyllis Schoonover, Sheridan Störmes (Butler University) and Anna Thompson.

#### The 1987 Annual Meeting

Plans are well underway for the next Annual Meeting, which will take place on November 5-7, in Ann Arbor. The Chapter will meet concurrently with the Society for Ethnomusicology which will hold its 32nd Annual Meeting, including a pre-conference Seminar on the "Writing of History." At the planning stage now are six small group sessions on music librarianship, plus the possibility of a special tour. Local

Arrangements Committee Members are Peggy Daub, Chair (University of Michigan), Richard Jones (University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee), Beth Christensen (St. Olaf College) and Jennifer Post, for the Society for Ethnomusicology. A full preliminary program with registration materials will be issued in the fall Newsletter. Plan now to attend this important event!!

Treasurer's Report

Checking Account balance as of February 10, 1986 \$1374.91

Receipts:

1986 Chapter Meeting,	
Registration (55 registrants @ \$10.00)	550.00
Luncheon (54, @ \$7.00)	378.00
Dues	272.50
Dues (back dues, etc.)	<u>382.50</u>

Total Receipts: \$1583.00

Disbursements:

Chapter Newsletter, Spring-Fall issue	135.00
Chapter Meeting expenses, 1986:	
Allen Center, Northwestern University	322.00
Chapter contribution to Conference on Music Bibliography	258.00
Bank Service Charges	17.96
Petty Cash	3.00

Total Disbursements: 735.96

Checking Account balance as of January 13, 1987 \$2221.95

FROM: David Knapp, Newsletter Editor  
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