

MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MIDWEST CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

NO. 13, JUNE 1974

CHAPTER CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Midwest Chapter of the MLA is roughly contiguous with the geographical boundaries of the Midwest Chapter of the AMS. As I understood it there was a movement among librarians who attended the Midwest AMS to have their own separate organization which resulted in the establishment of the Midwest MLA chapter. At any rate there is still within the Midwest MLA a very strong academic and musicological feeling almost to the exclusion of public music librarianship. If the public librarian is not ignored, at best he is slighted in the program planning and in the orientation of the services and thoughts of the chapter. Ideally, the chapter should have a balance between the academic and public music librarian if the geographical distribution allows for it. Unless I am mistaken all the present officers and committee representatives to the national MLA are academically oriented. I believe a membership drive is imperative if we are to achieve some sort of balance. It also might be well to consider dividing the chapter at, say, the Mississippi River into two seven-state groups. Ohio music librarians have organized a sort of sub-chapter. At the present I do not know what their relationship is to the Chapter or to the national MLA. State chapters would certainly have an advantage in so far as distance to travel is concerned.

I believe that having the chapter officers meet with the national Board of Directors provides an excellent opportunity to discuss problems and an opportunity to exchange ideas with other chapters.

A chapter such as the Midwest provides a geographical area suited for directories of special collections, microforms, and other music materials. Stephen Fry is contemplating such a project on special collections similar to a project he conducted in Southern California.

The outreach of the Midwest is in direct relationship to the insight of its members and officers. My guess would be that until there is a better representation of public librarians there will be little "outreach." My impression is that academic music librarians are most anxious to be helpful to the non-specialist but want to be approached for help. Those who could be most helpful are too immersed in their academic load to be missionaries. Cooperative projects, workshops, consultations and the like would be of value to the non-specialist if qualified specialists are available to offer such services.

State and regional library association membership should provide individual members of the Midwest Chapter with contacts through which they can be of assistance in programming special events and workshops to public and school librarians. Committee work can be another "missionary avenue" for furthering the music cause in public libraries.

Jack L. Ralston

EXPLORATIONS IN MUSIC LIBRARIANSHIP

The Explorations series, jointly sponsored by the Midwest Chapter and the School of Library Science, Kent State University was begun in 1966 for the purpose of making bibliographical information of regional interest available to members and to provide a publication outlet for smaller projects by members. Under the guidance of Dr. Guy Marco, a number of titles of merit have been issued:

Guy Marco. Music in the Library School (No.1, 1966)

Dominique-René de Lerma. A Register of Basic Conventional Titles and Publications Sources for Works of Jean Sibelius, 1865-1957 (No.2, 1967)

Dominique-René de Lerma. The Black-American Musical Heritage; a Preliminary Bibliography (No.3, 1969)

At the present time, Suzanne Fisher's "An Index to Information on Rock Musicians in the Library of Bowling Green State University, Ohio" (a guide to some 30 books and periodical titles) is under consideration for the Explorations series. In the past, it has been the policy of the Chapter to distribute a free copy to each of its members in good standing and to charge about \$1.00 to others. Production expenses and the size of the Fisher "Index" (about 60 pages plus covers) will make the cost of this publication approximately \$3.00 per copy.

As your Chairman sees it, we have several options regarding the Explorations:

1. Publish the index and sell it for \$3.00 to all.
2. Publish the index and sell it to members in good standing for \$2.00 (the other \$1.00 subsidized by the Chapter), and to others at \$3.00.
3. Postpone publication until there is enough dues money in the Chapter treasury to supply a free copy to each paid-up member and sell it to others for \$3.00. (One should keep in mind that an extended delay will cause the material to lose some of its value as an up-to-date source since the cut-off date is mid-1973).

In addition, I might add that Lois Cowell has also submitted a proposal for an index to recordings of Gregorian chant held by the Ohio State University Library for consideration as a future Explorations title.

It is my belief that Explorations provides a valuable service to the Chapter and that the series should be continued. It is in the area of financing that there is concern.

Please communicate your thoughts and feelings on the matter to the Chapter Chairman or to the Secretary-Treasurer.

NEWS OF THE ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING

According to Local Arrangements Chairman Glenn Patton, the Fall Meeting of the Midwest Chapter will be held on October 18-19, 1974, in the new Alice Millar Center for the Fine Arts at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois. Accommodations have been arranged at the Holiday Inn in Bloomington. The city is located at the junction of Interstates 55 and 74 and is served by Ozark Airlines and Amtrak.

Stephen Fry, Program Chairman for this meeting, is planning a provocative and educational session. It will bring out all those practical questions which confront the small college and university and the public music libraries in these days of pinched time and money. Reference service and sources, cooperation in collection building, gifts and exchange programs, friends of the library groups, public relations in the community, and working with your record dealer are topics on the drawing board. The program is designed to stimulate us with the pathos, humor and drama of the music library and prepare us to approach these new hard times.

Looking toward the meeting for Fall, 1975, it is well to remember that a tentative commitment was made several years ago for the Midwest Chapter to meet with the Tri-State Library Association in Chicago in 1975. We will need to appoint a representative to meet with the planning officers of that group if we are to honor that commitment. Volunteers to assist in that meeting with regard to local arrangements or the program are most welcome.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

Chapter membership dues (\$3.00) can now be paid for the 1974-75 academic year. Please make checks payable to the Midwest Chapter of the Music Library Association and send to:

Linda Dobbs
925 Haywood Drive, Apt. 4
Madison, Wisconsin 53715

Due to the increased cost of mailings, subsequent issues of the chapter Newsletter will be sent only to members in good standing. Your support of the Midwest Chapter is greatly needed. If, at any time, you have suggestions or questions regarding its operation, please contact one of the officers listed on page 4.

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

1973-75

Chairman:

Jack L. Ralston, Music Librarian
Conservatory of Music
University of Missouri - Kansas City
4420 Warwick Boulevard
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

Secretary-Treasurer:

Linda Dobbs, Music Librarian
Mills Music Library
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Microforms Committee (Ad Hoc):

David Fensky (Indiana University), Chairman
Robert Jones (University of Illinois)
Lois Rowell (Ohio State University)

Representatives to the National Music Library Association Committees:

Jean Geil (University of Illinois), Placement
Charles Simpson (Northwestern University), Publications
Donald B. Jones (College of St. Catherine, St. Paul), Membership

Fall Meeting, 1974 (Bloomington, Illinois):

Glenn Patton (Illinois Wesleyan University), Local Arrangements
Stephen Fry (Northwestern University), Program Chairman

Fall Meeting, 1975 (Chicago):

To be selected

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FUTURE MEETINGS

MLA: July 9-13, 1974, New York City
IAML: August 18-24, 1974, Jerusalem
MLA, Midwest Chapter: October 18-19, 1974, Bloomington, Illinois
MLA: February 4-9, 1975, San Juan, Puerto Rico