

CMLA/CAML: 15 Plus 25 Years of Flourishing

Dr. Helmut Kallmann, co-founder of the Canadian Music Library Association in 1956 and an honorary member of CAML, sent a message to be read at CAML's 25th anniversary meeting in Vancouver, reminiscing about his forty year affiliation with the organization.

Dr. Kallmann remains a staunch supporter of CAML. According to the *Encyclopedia of Music In Canada*, he chaired CMLA (1957-8 and 1967-8) and was responsible for CAML's initial participation in IAML and other projects too numerous to mention. Many CAML publications stemmed from his own research ie. *Musical Canadiana, a Subject Index* (1967).

Kirsten Walsh, President of CAML, read Dr. Kallmann's message at the Annual General Meeting which took place at the Vancouver Public Library on Sat., June 1st.

Canadian music librarians (I should add documentalists and archivists) are celebrating an important anniversary this year--oops, sorry, two important anniversaries. CAML is 25 years old, but CMLA, its predecessor, was formed exactly 40 years ago.

How our organization has changed over those years! New members, new music libraries (yes, and archives and documentation centres), new tasks and, above all, new circumstances.

I well remember our founding meeting at Niagara Falls in 1956, during a CLA conference. Ogreta McNeill, Lorna Fraser, Arnold and Maria Walter and I were driven by Lorna from Toronto. The date was June 12, 1956, and we went back the same day--early enough for me to take my wife to Spring Thaw! On the way back Mrs. McNeill mentioned something about a Social Credit meeting, whereupon Mrs. Walter let loose a warning that she should stay away from such a dangerous organization! We had had lunch at the conference hotel, together with 40 other librarians, and Dr. Walter gave an inspiring address.

Ogreta McNeill was our first (and also our ninth) chair. She later became our first honorary member and attended many meetings before her death at age 89, three years ago.

Our affiliation was with the Canadian Library Association, and membership in IAML was separate. Our numbers grew quickly and within a few years membership hovered around the 80s. How many were music librarians? Probably little more than half. There were general librarians, library (school) directors, and cataloguers; in our first year we also had four professors: Marvin Duchow of McGill, Richard Johnston and Harvey Olnick of Toronto and Lucien Brochu of Laval, the last three still living. One of our most enthusiastic members and a one-time chairman was the euphoric Father Auguste Morisset, the man who had a joke for every occasion. Then we had the super-efficient Jim Pilton, associate director of the Edmonton Public Library, who thought we should fold unless we offered a gigantic publication program. And that he drew up with precision and gusto! I attach two pages from the bulletins that he sent to the executive members from time to time. We certainly did produce publications, year after year. The Standards for Music Collections in Medium-Sized Public Libraries. The Bio-Bibliography. An Inventory of Music Periodicals in Canadian Libraries. The Subject Index to Musical Canadiana. Many Newsletters. The Centennial Project of preparing "data sheets" for all the early Canadian sheet music we could find. That one is still very music alive, presently in the process of computerization. Our awareness of Canadian music, current and historical, printed and recorded, certainly was raised. And it helped

tremendously to learn which library had a good collection of recordings, or specialized in complete editions, or paid attention to concert programs or Canadian. On the other hand library technology was still primitive, and I don't think we spent enough time agitating for increased attention to music by library schools.

One of the problems that members encountered was the dual annual fees to CLA and IAML. Many of the CMLA members saw no point in paying the rather hefty CLA dues, since their interest did not pertain to librarianship outside music. That is why, in 1971, when Lynne Jarman was the chair, it was decided to sever our affiliation with CLA and become the official national branch of IAML.

Another 25 years, and much has changed. Music collections have grown rapidly. Technology has become a prime concern, whereas our publishing project have been far and few. Budgets have decreased. Some of our members have moved away from the music library environment: Kathleen Toomey, Dale Ward, and Lynne Jarman-Hollander, for example. Two honorary members have passed on: Ogreta McNeill and Helen Creighton, also Father Morisset and Stephen Willis. Others have retired, among them

Maria Calderisi, Jean Lavender, Henry Mutsaers, Conrad Sabourin, Sister Louise Smith and, most recently, Hans Burndorfer.

Of the founding members in 1956, I seem to be the only one who remains a member. Among the most enthusiastic and contributing members of CMLA I remember Ogreta McNeill, Melva Dwyer, Lorna Fraser, and Rhoda Baxter. As to longtime CAML members, comparing the membership lists of 1975 and 1996, I find at least 11 on both: the 20-year club includes Sandra Acker, Claude Beaudry, Debra Begg, Maria Calderisi, Alison Hall, Helmut Kallmann, Kathleen McMorrow, Selima Mohammed, Cheryl Osborn, Sister Louise Smith, and Marlene Wehrle. Congratulations to all!

I am not worried about CAML's future usefulness. If you let your energy and enthusiasm slip, I will tell you off at the 50th anniversary meeting--I have every intention of attending! Good luck to the Association in the intervening years.

Fondly yours,
Helmut Kallmann

[Thank you to Debbie Begg for writing the introduction--Ed.]

