

IAML/AIBM ANNUAL MEETING: LISBON, 23-28 July 1978

Once again IAML has lived up to its other name: International Association of Magnificent Locations. Lisbon is a spectacularly beautiful city on the hilly north bank of the broad Tagus estuary as it flows into the Atlantic. Although there are many vestiges of its earlier history, the main centre of the city has a homogeneous 18th-century quality, having been practically completely rebuilt within a very short time after the disastrous earthquake of 1755. Almost all of the old popular quarter near the port was destroyed at that time, but the small part that still exists, nestled around the foot of St. George's Castle, is a fascinating warren of narrow alleys, archways, steps, and occasional pocket-handkerchief-size squares. Many of the buildings are faced with colourful glazed tiles (azulejos) which glow in the bright, hot sun, but which give an impression of refreshing coolness to the passers-by. The quarter, called the Alfama, really comes to life, however, after dark which was quite late in July. In fact, most restaurants are deserted before 9 pm--but then, especially those in which "Fado" singers perform, it is difficult to find a vacant table before midnight. At that time, however, the true Fado aficionados arrive because the best singers begin to perform. Fado--which means fate in Portuguese--is a unique genre of song, usually sad, in which the singer achieves a plaintive expressiveness by special throat techniques, and is accompanied traditionally by a guitar and a mandolin-type instrument called the "viola". Good food, good wine, and good company combined with the music and the atmosphere to create truly memorable moments.

However, beautiful Lisbon had to wait for the few free evenings or after the conference for our attentions. The program was, as usual, extremely full. Most of Sunday and Friday afternoon were taken up with the two Council meetings on which I reported briefly in the last Newsletter (VII,3 - President's Report). Early Sunday evening, the opening session took place at the Classical University. IAML President, Barry Brook, reviewed the associations 30 years of activities, and Santiago Kastner, the eminent musicologist, gave an interesting and comprehensive account of the music holdings of libraries in Portugal. Karl-Heinz Köhler of the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek in Berlin told us the exciting story of the recent re-acquisition of long-lost manuscript treasures. We were also treated to a stirring performance of Portuguese music for brass by the Metais de Lisboa, and to a cocktail/reception which followed the ceremonies.

Monday, the working sessions began in earnest: during each two-hour period there were always at least three simultaneous sessions. Given particular interests or responsibilities, and taking into account the occasional skipping of a session due to sunstroke, indigestion, or plain old fatigue, it was impossible to even sample the entire scope of IAML activities. So this account will be extremely sketchy, but watch for the full report in a forthcoming edition of Fontes artis musicae.

RidIM: The usual summing-up of the year's activities by national representatives, with an especially interesting one given by Mrs. Oberg from Sweden, and discussions of plans for the dissemination of iconographical information.

Plenary Session: "Computer aids in music libraries and archives" was chaired by Harald Heckmann of the Deutsches Rundfunkarchiv. It included papers by Carrett Bowles (Stanford U.) "The computer-produced thematic catalog of the Pièces de viole of Marin Marais", Helmut Rösing (RISM, Kassel) "Manuscript cataloguing for RISM", Anders Askenfelt (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm) "Automatic notation of played music: the VISA project", Barry S. Brook (City University of New York) "Computer applications for music literature", and Philip Drummond (RILM Center, New York) "Computerized music bibliography: software maintenance, absolescence, and renewal". The broad and varied coverage of the theme served to remind those of us who have studiously avoided confrontation of the issue that automation is a many-talented and valuable servant with seemingly limitless potential.

Research Libraries Commission: The final version of a pamphlet on the preservation of manuscripts will soon be distributed. The relationship of this commission with others within IAML was discussed and elections of officers held: Rudolf Elvers of the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz in Berlin and Richard Andrewes of the Pendlebury Music Library in Cambridge were re-elected President and Vice-President respectively, and Catherine Massip of the Bibliothèque nationale in Paris was elected Secretary.

Sub-Commission on Bibliographical Terminology (chaired by me in the absence of the Chairman, Dan Fog of Copenhagen): Discussion of the desirability of continuing with the work of this sub-commission resulted in positive action. The results should be a reference work of problem terms, with full-scale, historical description of usage in each of the three official languages. To test the feasibility of such a project, the three linguistic groups will chose two or three such terms and prepare a sample article on each for distribution and discussion at Salzburg.

Public Libraries Commission/Bibliographical Research Commission working lunch: Discussion of projects of mutual interest such as the promotion of the preparation of needed works of reference, i.e., thematic catalogues, and reprint editions of unique music holdings of certain public libraries.

Commission for Bibliographical Research (François Lesure, Chair; myself, Secretary): Lists of recent bibliographical publications from various countries, collected and collated by the Secretary, were distributed. Brief reports on the music coverage of their

national bibliographies were made by Eva-Brit Fanger (Denmark), Karl-Heinz Köhler (DDR), François (France), and Patrick Mills (UK). The need for updating such current information on all national bibliographies was acknowledged and a working group was formed to carry out this task. The continuing project of collecting and cataloguing 19th-century music catalogues was reviewed by Lenore Coral, who welcomed constructive criticism and advice. François Lesure introduced a possible new project: the assembly of musical criticism in reprint form from selected newspapers of key musical works throughout history. The structure of the commission was discussed and it was decided to elect a Steering Committee which, together with the officers, would carry forward the work of the commission between annual meetings: Günter Birkner (Zürich), Lenore Coral (Madison, Wisc.), Dan Fog (Copenhagen), Gertraut Haberkamp (München), János Kárpáti (Budapest), Don Krummel (Urbana, Ill.) Michael Ochs (Cambridge, Mass.), and Malcolm Turner (London). From among these, a Vice-Chairman would be appointed by the Executive Board. [Gertraut Haberkamp of the RISM Centre in Munich was subsequently appointed.]

Cataloguing Commission: A combined IAML/IASA committee invited me to attend a special meeting so that I might learn of their specific objections to the ISBD for Non-Book Materials published by IFLA last year as it applies to recorded sound. I was asked to make a representation on their behalf at the IFLA meeting in Czechoslovakia which I agreed to do.

Fontes Editorial Council (on behalf of the Bibliographical Research Commission): Contents of the journal as they relate to the work of the commissions was discussed and suggestions for additions and/or improvements were solicited.

Added events: Port wine tasting at the "Solar" Instituto do Vinho do Porto; a guided tour through the fabulous collection of the Gulbenkian Museum; a concert by the Gulbenkian choir; an excursion to Mafra (visit to the chapel included an extraordinary organ recital and the convent library was breathtaking, as was the return ride through Sintra and back along the coast road); a special Australian music presentation organized by the Australian Music Centre, consisting of a concert of recent piano music played by Roger Woodward, a film on music in Australia, and a delightful song and dance session by two aborigines, complete with body paint and dijeridoo, followed by a sumptuous reception at the Australian Embassy; and, finally, a delicious farewell dinner at St. George's Castle high above the Lisbon port.

The above events, plus having almost all delegates in one hotel with a swimming pool which served as an unofficial inter-session meeting place, made this a most satisfying and pleasurable conference. I recommend most heartily that more CAML members attend future meetings, take part in the work of the association, and make friends with colleagues from many lands: 1979 Salzburg (1-6 July), 1980 Cambridge, 1981 Budapest, and 1982 Brussels. Do plan to come!

Maria Calderisi.