From the Chair...

H. Stephen Wright
Northern Illinois University

I am told that, in his speech during the closing ceremonies of the 1996 Olympics, Juan Antonio Samaranch (the chairman of the International Olympic Committee) dealt a grievous insult to the city of Atlanta by failing to describe the 1996 games as "the best ever." Samaranch merely said, "Well done, Atlanta," which sounded complimentary enough to me at the time. It seems I am naive; apparently, it is the tradition to apply ultimate superlatives during these final speeches, thus instantly rendering all other previous Olympics progressively inferior.

I would not be so crass as to designate our recent anniversary meeting in South Bend as "the best ever," because I've only been attending Midwest Chapter meetings since 1985 (excluding a brief visit to the 1983 meeting as a library school student), and I couldn't possibly dismiss or diminish the other eleven meetings I've attended. They've all been consistently delightful and enriching. Yet this meeting was undeniably unique and will definitely hold a special place in our collective memory. Taking stock of our chapter history, and the history of our profession, had a profound effect on me, and the opportunity to meet some of our past leaders was truly wonderful.

Upon returning to work after this splendid conference, I reflected on how profoundly music librarianship has changed in the past half-century, and how much it is likely to change in the next fifty years. One naturally wonders if music librarianship, or librarianship in general, will exist fifty or a hundred years hence. I have heard people say that libraries will become obsolete in the next century, because people will be able to get all the information they need from the World Wide Web; there will be no need for anyone to visit a library physically.

A few years ago, I chaired a task force that was charged with codifying evaluation criteria for my institution's library faculty. As part of my duties, I had the unique pleasure of writing the definition of librarianship that would appear in the

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preamble to the criteria. Here is the first sentence of the definition I devised: "Librarianship is the profession that seeks to acquire, organize, preserve, advance, and provide access to the record of human knowledge."

Information is not self-organizing. Machines cannot catalog music, or anything else. Consider the multitude of decisions, large and small, that a music cataloger makes in the process of cataloging one music score or sound recording: What is this item? What is its format? What does it contain? Where is the chief source of information? Is the title generic or distinctive? Is a contents note required? Should the performers be listed? We make dozens, perhaps hundreds, of such decisions in the course of our work, each of which draws on our experience with music and music materials, our knowledge of our clientele's needs and expectations, and our knowledge of life and the world around us. Now try to imagine a computer making even one of these judgments, and doing it accurately. Then do a simple search on AltaVista, or one of the other Web search engines, and wade through the chaos that results when automated "spiders" attempt to catalog the morass of the Internet.

Stand nearby your online catalog terminals on a busy afternoon, and unobtrusively watch people searching for things. You've probably done this already. You'll quickly notice that people frequently use search strategies that can't possibly work. They misspell composers' names; they invert first and last names; they type queries in natural language, in the mistaken impression that the machine understands and interprets what they type. I frequently tell our clients that the computer is just a stupid machine, that it does not "understand" queries any more than a toaster can "understand" the difference between a bagel and a slice of bread. I've sometimes wondered if the principles of "fuzzy logic" could be applied to library catalogs, so that natural language queries could be analyzed and converted to controlled index terms, but technologically knowledgeable people assure me that this is many, many years away, assuming it is ever possible at all.

If libraries and librarians do vanish from the earth in by the year 3000, it will not be because they are not needed. As long as humanity records its knowledge, librarians will be needed to care for that record. The details of how we do this will undoubtedly change, but the record itself will still require our attention. To claim that librarians are obsolete is tantamount to claiming that recorded knowledge itself is obsolete. If librarianship is an endangered profession, it is not because our profession is valueless; it is because people who have the power to eliminate us do not understand or care about the continuity and preservation of the human record. If our successors, if any, are to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the MLA Midwest Chapter, then we must stand up to the ignorance of those who would let the universe of knowledge degenerate into a vast miasma of undifferentiated pseudo-information.†
Chapter
Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
Election Results

The MLA Midwest Chapter is pleased to announce that Lynn Gulickson was elected as its Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect at the annual chapter meeting this past November. In accordance with chapter bylaws, Lynn will serve in this position for two years. Lynn currently holds the position of Art and Music Librarian at the University of Northern Iowa.

We wish to congratulate Lynn, and express our appreciation to Alan Green, her running mate, for his willingness to donate his time and expertise to the chapter.

MWMLA-L List Created

The MLA Midwest Chapter’s mailing list, MWMLA-L, is now operational. MWMLA-L is for news and discussion relevant to the Midwest Chapter (Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin).

To subscribe, send the a message to LISTSERV@UBVM.UCS.INDIANA.EDU containing the following text in the body of the message:

SUBSCRIBE MWMLA-L Yourfirstname Yourlastname

Of course, you would substitute your own first and last name for “Yourfirstname Yourlastname”—for example:

SUBSCRIBE MWMLA-L Dana Scully

LISTSERV will then send you a message asking to confirm your subscription request by sending back an “ok” command.

Alternatively, you can write to H. Stephen Wright (HSWRIGHT@NUILE.EDU) or Ralph Papakhan (PAPAKH@UBVM.UCS.INDIANA.EDU) and we will add you to the list manually.

Administrative Structure of the Midwest Chapter

Officers

Chapter Chair: H. Stephen Wright (Northern Illinois University); Chair-Elect: Lynn Gulickson (University of Northern Iowa); Secretary: Robert C. Delvin (Illinois Wesleyan University); Newsletter Editor: Jack Stewart (University of Kentucky).

Standing Committees

Bylaws Committee
Chair: Beth Christensen (St. Olaf College); Ex Officio: Lynn Gulickson (University of Northern Iowa); Allie Goudy (Western Illinois University), Jack Knapp (Oberlin College).

Membership Committee
Chair: Lynne Weber (Mankato State University); Keith Eiten (Central College), Grace Fitzgerald (University of Iowa).

Nominating Committee
Chair: Mark Scharf (Washington University); Eloisoe Hansen (Bradley University), Paula Hickner (University of Kentucky).

Program Committee
Chair: Lynn Gulickson (University of Northern Iowa); Cathy Lutz (University of St. Thomas); Laura Probst (University of Minnesota).

Publications Committee
Chair: Laura Gayle Green (University of Missouri—Kansas City); Jenn Geil (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Ruth Inman (Kennedy-King College), Anna Sylvester (University of Missouri—Kansas City).

Special Committees

Cataloging Committee
Chair: Grace Fitzgerald (University of Iowa); Past-Chair: Mary Huismann (University of Wisconsin—Whitewater), Richard Burbank (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Paul Golden (University of Cincinnati), Fatty Falk (Bowling Green State University), Ruth Inman (Kennedy-King College), Suzanne Mudge (Indiana University), Mark Scharf (Washington University), Wendy Sistrunk (University of Minnesota—Kansas City), Anna Sylvester (University of Missouri—Kansas City).

Chapter Handbook Task Force
Chair: Allie Goudy (Western Illinois University); Laura Gayle Green (University of Missouri—Kansas City), Sue Stancu (Indiana University).

Chapter World Wide Web Site Subcommittee
Chair: Linda Hartig (University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee); Kathleen Abromeit (Oberlin College), Robert Ackter (DePaul University), Jennifer Anthony (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), William Hulsker (Wayne State University), Fran Smith, Jack Stewart (University of Kentucky).

Public Services Committee
Chair: Eunice Schroeder (Lawrence University), Past-Chair: Lewis Bowling (University of Kentucky); Kathleen Abromeit (Oberlin College), Bonnie Bostitch (Bowling Green State University), Holly Borne (Butler University), Beth Christensen (St. Olaf College), Robert Delvin (Illinois Wesleyan University), Alan Green (Ohio State University), Lynn Gulickson (University of Northern Iowa), Linda Hartig (University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee), Jack Stewart (University of Kentucky).

Technology, Archives, Preservation, and Sound Committee
Chair: Phyllis Danz (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign); Martin Jenkins (Wright State University), Karen Little (University of Louisville), Charles Reynolds (University of Michigan).
Music Library Association
Midwest Chapter
Librarian Exchange Program 1996
Application Guidelines

The Music Library Association Midwest Chapter will again fund an exchange program for music librarians in the Midwest Chapter during 1996. The purpose of this grant is to offer an opportunity for music librarians to exchange information in ways not possible at Music Library Association meetings. While chapter and national meetings provide very important and valuable opportunities for professional sharing and mentoring, these meetings are brief and filled with many activities. The exchange could facilitate the development of a new expertise, reinvigorate a librarian in mid-career, or help a new librarian gain basic and practical knowledge.

Funding can be requested for the following:

1. An exchange between two music librarians who apply together.
2. A single music librarian who has identified a need and wants to undertake an exchange but does not know with whom. In this case the Librarian Exchange Program Task Force will help identify an appropriate individual for the exchange.
3. A visit by one music librarian to the facility of another. In this case an exchange is not necessary or appropriate; for example, where one librarian wishes to learn a new skill from another.

Eligibility Requirements

1. The exchange or visit must enhance the participating individual(s) professional development in a demonstrable way.
2. Individuals should be a member of the Midwest Chapter of the Music Library Association and the Music Library Association national organization.
3. Applicants should include an indication that their institution(s) will support the exchange at least to the extent of allowing the applicant to take time to complete the exchange.
4. Funding will not be awarded for collaboration on research activities.

Application Procedures

1. Each applicant (or pair of applicants, if appropriate) should submit a one-page proposal, written in clear and straightforward language, outlining what the exchange or visit will accomplish. The rationale should list the participants in and the purpose of the exchange, or the type of experience desired. Describe your needs clearly.
2. Each applicant (or pair of applicants, if appropriate) should submit an estimated budget covering travel, lodging, and meals. Although each application will be judged on the basis of its own merits, awards of more than $300.00 per person will generally not be given. Applicants should, however, apply for complete funding.
3. Applications should indicate dates of travel and length of stay for each participant.
4. Each participant should include a letter from the administrator(s) of the library/libraries involved that the project, if funded, will receive their support in the way of release time, additional funding, etc.
5. After the completion of the exchange, each participant will be required to write a brief evaluation of his/her experience.

For additional information, contact H. Stephen Wright at (815) 753-9839 or HSWRIGHT@NIU.EDU.

An application is attached to the last page of this issue. Submit completed applications to:

H. Stephen Wright
Music Library
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2889

Calendar

Deadline for applications is 1 May 1997.
Awards will be made by 1 June 1997.
Exchanges must be completed by 1 October 1997.
Reports due to chapter chair by 15 October 1997.
Summaries of Annual Meeting Sessions

Preservation Session
Presented by Sonja Jordan, Head of Preservation, University Libraries, Notre Dame University, with Preservation and Restoration Staff Members
Summary by Phyllis Danner
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Preservation is alive, well, and respectable at Notre Dame thanks to the efforts of Sonja Jordan, head of the University of Notre Dame Preservation Department. Jordan is a dynamic speaker, innovative, creative, and obviously dedicated to the preservation of the Notre Dame library collections. Jordan's enthusiasm about preservation of library materials was contagious!

The Friday morning program, "Preservation for Music libraries, Where to Start," offered by Jordan and her staff in their newly renovated preservation lab, included a discussion, demonstration, hands-on practice, and tour of the facility. Jordan has acquired preservation equipment including binding presses, photocopiers, a Minolta PS3000 archival copier, a Welto freeze drier, and deacidification chambers through a number of grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from Notre Dame, as well as through donations from philanthropic organizations. Jordan's ultimate goal is to create a regional center for preservation services and disaster relief at Notre Dame.

Jordan uses a subject-driven model rather than a random survey of holdings to determine what materials require preservation measures. Her background in cataloging (the initial stage of any preservation process), as well as her commitment to preservation of all media, makes her an ideal administrator for the unit. She reminded us that we are all in preservation and that we can make a difference. It was gratifying to see evidence of strong administrative support for the preservation of the Notre Dame library materials and for the work of the unit.

Jordan related that a preservation study is an important component of collection strategy and an integral function in the library—equal in functionality to cataloging and shelving. The goal of preservation is to keep library materials safe from decay, damage, and destruction. One of Jordan's goals during the presentation was to assist us in translating the Notre Dame model for use at our own institutions. Jordan developed the Notre Dame preservation model based on principles of collection developments (what? how long? for what purpose?) from the circulation model that historically has been selected as the optimum and easiest way to identify preservation needs. The American Library Association reports that institutions with established preservation programs have shifted their focus from using circulation-driven to collection development evaluation in the last five to eight years. ALA now supports adoption of the collection development/special subject areas model with the inclusion of preservation units within the individual division. Notre Dame moved away from using the circulation-driven model and adopted the subject approach for collection evaluation in 1995 when the Preservation Department moved to the newly renovated quarters. Using the collection development model, Jordan is able to plan effectively for budget, staff, equipment, and supplies, with preservation unit pro-

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ductivity increasing 200% since implementation of the CD model. Jordan believes that using the subject approach allows more through and complete restoration of a collection.

Jordan stated, "Once an institution has determined subject priorities, the staff should develop priorities in the subject area. Develop a strategy—it is a means to accomplish an end. A condition survey will establish the number of volumes to be processed and facilitate allocation of funds, staff, and time for the project." She suggested identifying critical areas in the collection and prioritizing among the classes to develop a format of preference based on the nature of use, as well as the nature of materials. Jordan uses a computer program to identify the volume of materials to be preserved and a brittleness chart to identify the lifespan of the collection. She recommends that materials undergo the deacidification process while they are still useable. The Notre Dame Preservation Department initiative has resulted in deacidification of over 4,000 items.

Because music collections enjoy highest use—and abuse, beginning the preservation initiative on receipt of materials is essential. Music collections are unique because they include audio, visual, and print materials. Limited preservation options available because of notation and use cause the preservation unit to seek creative ways to reformat.

Jordan stated that the original form of the work must be sustained as well as the original binding even if the item must be reformatted. Music for performance presents different binding needs—openability is most important for the performing musician; performance from microfilm is certainly implausible! Until national standards are established Notre Dame provides the user with the original score in openable condition. The Preservation Department repairs and conserves, sends materials to a commercial bindery, and prepares photocopied facsimiles of original works for users.

In regard to audio materials, Jordan referred to the ALA discussion concerning reformatting of audio and other non-print materials that addresses the question of how much of the imperfection (background noise, pitch differences) to carry over in the reformatted version.

After her informative and enthusiastic overview of the goals and activities of the Notre Dame Preservation Department, Jordan divided the group into sections and introduced her staff, who provided each group with micro-courses in archival photocopying, pamphlet binding, deacidification, minor repairs, encapsulation, and preparation of materials for shipment to commercial binderies. Jordan and the staff compiled and provided handouts that include information about preservation techniques, recommendations for environmental conditions, and excellent bibliographies.

The Notre Dame Preservation Department presentation was an informative and valuable feature of the 1996 Midwest Chapter annual meeting. Many thanks to Sonja Jordan, Margaret Ankrom, Lisa Stienbarger, Diane Sikorsky, and Marsha Mueleman for having shared their experience and expertise in preservation practice!


"From the Handwritten Card to AACR3: Cataloging Past and Present"
Mary Huismann, Moderator
Grace Fitzgerald, Ruth Inman, Mark Scharff, Presenters
Submitted by Eunice Schroeder
Lawrence University

Grace Fitzgerald’s talk on music cataloging of the past on Friday afternoon was followed by presentations on its future by Mark Scharff, Ruth Inman, and a surprise special guest. Mark began his talk by outlining five questions that underlie present and future decisions about cataloging: whom will we be serving, what will they want, what will we be able to give them, how will we give it to them, and who will pay? Then, drawing from Jim Cassaro’s article “Music Cataloging and the Future” (Fontes Artis Musicae 41, no. 3), he laid out further questions about cataloging viewed as a process: what is the future of national standards, what is the future of shared cataloging, can costs be assessed and reduced, and is there
a use for minimal-level cataloging? Four lines of tension along which opposing forces and trends seem to be heading are: (1) more is being published, but there are fewer resources available to buy, catalog, and process; (2) more powerful technology is applied to lower-quality and leaner records; (3) patrons want more access points and information from records, but catalogers have less time and fewer resources to provide them; and (4) catalogers are increasingly concerned to provide greater collocation and draw better relationships among the works represented in the catalog, but there is a proliferation of formats and manifestations, with disagreement on expressing those relationships in more complex situations. Finally, Mark laid out other issues for the future: (1) outsourcing; (2) a radical version of the future in which the creation of surrogates (cataloging) is replaced by the searching of texts using intelligent programs; (3) a different role for the authority file, with more information stored there, perhaps to the point of the “access control record”; and (4) do some proposals for an OPAC that clusters manifestations of a work rely on conventions that smack of analytic cataloging records (such as for LPs in the old days), and do we want to stray that far from the unit-cataloging model favored in AACR2 and enshrined by LCRI?

As a special attraction for Midwest Chapter members the Cataloging Committee arranged for the famous psychic Madame Bibliographski to make an appearance and conduct an on-the-spot consultation on the future of cataloging, something the well-known seer agrees to do only on very rare and special occasions. Shrouded in mystery in the darkened auditorium and gazing into her luminous crystal ball, she attempted to divine the future of cataloging by responding to questions asked by Mark Scharff. “Will there be any catalogers?” A hush descended on the audience as all waited with baited breath and pounding hearts. Finally the answer came, proclaimed in stentorian tones: “THEY ARE THERE!” Then, “Will AACR2 still be there?” At this Madame B. merely shrugged, responding, “Descriptive cataloging, intellectual content cataloging—what’s the difference?” Finally, to the question whether cataloging will be outsourced, the psychic foresaw administrators of the future on their knees begging catalogers to come back! Having been reassured about the future of cataloging, all present agreed that Madame Bibliographski’s appearance was a highlight of the meeting.

To conclude the session, Ruth Inman offered further comments on the future of cataloging, emphasizing that catalogers should proactively take their future into their own hands rather than let it be determined for them by administrative agendas which are necessarily responsive primarily to economic constraints. In the future catalogers will increasingly have to deal with a business philosophy creeping into academic processes, a philosophy that dictates the bottom line and doing more with less as guiding principles.

In this environment, Ruth continued, the cataloging community needs to be strong in identifying what catalogers do best and how this provides services and benefits to patrons. Catalogers need to be articulate in making the case that cataloging is an investment of resources yielding a valuable return to the organization. They need to demonstrate that value by developing quality products that anticipate the needs of patrons, such as systems that sort keyword searches by relevance to the search query. Ruth urged the music library community to engage in research to determine how catalogers’ efforts might be used to best result for the patron. She cited initial research showing that additional subject headings rather than contents notes prove most valuable for searching, and suggested that such studies be replicated as applying specifically to music searching to determine if the same results hold true.

By the session’s end catalogers were not only assured by Madame Bibliographski that cataloging would be part of the bibliographic landscape of the future, but were left with the challenge to shape their own future agenda to ensure the continued recognition of the value and benefit of their work.

Midwest Note-Book  January 1997
“Midwest Music Librarianship: Concerns and Issues Encountered in the Archival Record”
Presented by Jean Geil, University of Illinois at-Urbana Champaign

[A copy of the paper Jean presented appears below. Ed.]

Several years ago, when the Midwest Chapter’s Ad Hoc Anniversary Steering Committee held its initial meeting in Kansas City, the question came up as to what extent the chapter’s history could be documented by materials deposited in the national Music Library Association Archives at the University of Maryland. In a fit of bravado, I announced that the next time I was back east, I would take a few hours off, drive to College Park to investigate the situation, and prepare a one- or two-page finding aid to facilitate locating Midwest Chapter materials among MLA records at large. This task should be easy enough; I thought the most challenging aspect of the whole assignment would be finding a parking spot on the Maryland campus.

Imagine my astonishment when the helpful librarians of the University of Maryland Music Library wheeled out for my inspection what must be the world’s largest book truck, upon which had been placed a truly formidable stack—perhaps five feet high—of archival record boxes of several sizes. I hasten to add that not all of this material relates exclusively to the Midwest Chapter. My quick trip to College Park evolved into five or six visits over a period of three years, while the proposed one- or two-page finding aid grew to fifteen pages. This guide does not cover the entire history of our chapter. It is limited to the first thirty years of chapter papers (that is, up to the year 1971), from a selected group of MLA records housed at College Park.

Materials which have been deposited at the University of Maryland since the latter institution assumed responsibility for maintaining the MLA Archives have all received standard archival processing and description, down to the level of individual folders. Holdings may be accessed via detailed contents listings in the archive’s computer database. Before 1982, the MLA Archives had been housed at the Library of Congress, where materials had been maintained by and large under the names of individual donors, but without as detailed a description of contents as has been produced at Maryland for documents deposited after 1982. When the Library of Congress materials were transferred to Maryland, a notebook was put together which provides a paper record describing these earlier holdings in general terms. However, it is not always possible to do the kinds of detailed searching among earlier records as can be done for later material.

In preparing the guide, I focused my attention largely upon Midwest Chapter records from the 1960s or earlier—that is, from among documents that had been sent initially to the Library of Congress. Time did not permit me to carry the project forward into the years of the chairmanship of Don Roberts and beyond, or to make a systematic search through files deposited by former national MLA presidents. The potential exists for other chapter members to take up this task, enlarge upon the preliminary guide, and carry it forward to the present time.

Two articles appeared in volume four (1995) of the MLA Midwest Note-Book describing some aspects of what I was able to learn about the early years of the Midwest Chapter. Our chapter, along with five others in various parts of the country, came into existence at a tumultuous time in American history—during the week immediately prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the entry of the United States into World War II. In the first Midwest Note-Book article, I proposed that perhaps the reason I was not able to find much documentary evidence as to chapter activities during the war years was because most chapter activity simply had to remain on hold for the duration of the hostilities, in the face of travel hardships and other restrictions. There are undoubtedly other factors to consider. It appears as if some early chapter records may have been lost in transit during the mid-1950s. Jack Chitwood, referring to records from before his chairmanship which he himself had never received, wrote on 20 September 1957 to incoming chair Betty Olmsted, “I am at a com-
plete loss as to what happened to our papers.”

It is quite probable that chapter projects and activities continued throughout the war years, even though actual conferences may not have taken place on a regular basis. One such program was the chapter’s Regional Music Project, the effort of a committee chaired by Professor William G. Hill of the University of Illinois. Several surveys were conducted by mail to determine where source materials were located documenting the history of music in the midwestern states. Steps were taken to secure commitments from one or more institutions in each state to be designated as regional repositories of relevant materials. After eight years, and a great deal of effort, the project met with an only limited degree of success, perhaps due to a lack of firm commitment on the part of library administrators.

The contributions of William G. Hill, who served as chapter chair during 1948 and 1949, were described in some detail in the September 1995, article in Midwest Note-Book. At that time I mentioned that the bulk of Hill’s papers remained in private hands. I am happy to report that this past year Hill’s papers were deposited in the University of Illinois Archives. These files contain correspondence relating to AMS as well as MLA, papers pertaining to Hill’s academic career at Illinois, programs, clippings, drafts of his publications, and a variety of additional materials. A finding aid for the William G. Hill papers has been prepared by Phyllis Danner; a copy will be forwarded to the MLA Archives for the benefit of individuals who may wish to conduct further research into the history of this association.

Finding the Hill papers was an exercise in serendipity. There may be other materials which have not yet come to light relating to chapter activities during the 1940s and 1950s. But at present the record for the first two decades of Midwest Chapter history remains decidedly murky. The situation improves dramatically with the chairmanship of William Weichlein, who served from 1961 to 1963. From this time forward, papers seem to have been deposited in the Archives systematically, so that individual issues and concerns may be followed through the tenures of succeeding chairs. I will mention a few issues which loomed large during the ten-year period from 1961 through 1971, that is, through the chairmanship of Weichlein, Bruno Nettl, Guy Marco, Olga Buth, and Clara Steuermann. Some of these concerns were unique to their time, while others remain with us yet as matters of continuing concern.

In earlier years it was common for the Midwest Chapter of MLA to meet jointly with the Midwest Chapter of AMS. There was evidently a decided opinion among some music librarians that MLA was not exactly an equal partner in this relationship, especially in regard to having papers on the program that would be especially relevant to the concerns of music librarians. As stated in the Minutes of 8 May 1955, in regard to the previous year’s conference: “Jack Chitwood, deputy chairman for that meeting, was commended for securing a session of four papers directly relating to music librarianship.” A few years earlier, William Hill had addressed the situation quite precisely in an undated letter to Scott Goldthwaite, who was then national president of MLA. Hill wrote:

... But I do think that there should be more understanding between the two organizations. There has been a tendency on the part of AMS people to dislike the MLA—an attitude that has been aggravated by jealousy of the success the MLA has made with Notes while for years the AMS had not been able to get a journal going. This is an unfortunate state of affairs. The organizations complement each other and each might be a great help to the other. I think we need some effective liaison work.

Moving ahead to the early years of the 1960s, chapter chair Bill Weichlein shared the sentiment of a number of other midwest MLA members that the chapter would never really come into its own as a viable, vigorous organization until it began to function as a completely separate group, with its own particular agenda, rather than as simply an appendage to the annual midwest AMS conference. This conviction is reflected in Weichlein’s letter of 11 April 1962 to Edna Christopher concerning continued on p. 10
the forthcoming meeting in Detroit: "As this is our first meeting free from the coattails of the American Musicological Society, we hope that it will be a howling success." As the decade progressed, the chapter maintained its autonomy, continued to flourish, and seemed to experience no special difficulty in attracting registrants to its conferences. However, it is probably also true that there was a corresponding decline in participation in MLA Midwest Chapter activities by musicologists who were not also members of the library profession.

The question of the geographic boundaries of the Midwest Chapter was revisited periodically during earlier years. At a national board meeting in 1941 it was reported that, although the area to be covered by the new Midwest Chapter was quite extensive, 28 out of 55 MLA members in the Midwest had agreed to organize themselves as a single chapter. The composition of the chapter was to shrink from thirteen states to our present nine as other MLA chapters eventually came into existence.

Nevertheless, the opinion seems to have persisted through the years among some MLA members that our chapter was simply too large to function at an optimal level. During the chairmanship of Olga Buth, from 1967 through 1969, serious consideration was given to organizing branches along state lines. This would allow for greater "grass roots" involvement, while affording the possibility that each group might be able to work closely with their individual state library associations. But Betty Olmsted urged caution. As she stated in a letter to Clara Steuermann dated 2 March 1970, "I certainly think that any suggestion of a state's withdrawing to set up its own organization is premature ... For me, there will always be the regional concern as well as the grass roots emphasis. I would hate to see the whole hacked up into pockets. The insularity of the smaller units might prove as much of a drawback as the large geographical area."

Throughout the 1960s, members of the Midwest Chapter spent a great deal of time deliberating how the organization might reach out to smaller libraries or to general libraries that held music materials within their collection, but which did not necessarily have music specialists among their staff members. Attention was focused upon public libraries in particular—in response, perhaps, to an editorial submitted to Library Journal by one of the members of this chapter, concerning (as he saw the situation) the lack of service and relevance of the Music Library Association to the library profession generally and to public libraries in particular. The chapter's efforts to establish contacts with state library associations were motivated in part as a response to this concern; MLA liaisons were appointed for each state. A Small Libraries Committee was established. Basic lists of music materials were drafted. It was also proposed that a "Music Corner" demonstration program be launched, consisting of a crate containing a basic library of music materials, together with complete cataloging, which could be loaned to smaller libraries or set up for display at state library association meetings.

Many of these good ideas failed to result in lasting benefits, due in all probability to the fact that the people whom we as music specialists were trying to reach were not absolutely convinced they needed help. Kent Hirst, who was acting as liaison in the state of Ohio, made a perceptive comment in his letter of 21 November 1966 to chapter chair Guy Marco:

The individual librarians of the small public libraries must be sold on the idea first of all. Many of these librarians would need some kind of training (a workshop, perhaps?) in order to make intelligent and effective use of the materials brought into their libraries in connection with the project.

As the decade of the 1960s drew to
a close, there seemed to be much concern about the whole process of music school accreditation. The process seems to have been universally regarded as an inescapable ordeal which music librarians had to face with fortitude at regular intervals. Because questions were being asked as to how music librarians might play a more appropriate role in the accreditation process, a panel discussion was organized for the 1970 meeting involving representatives from both the National Association of Schools of Music and the Music Library Association. This issue prompted chapter chair Clara Steuermann to write on 10 November 1969, to MLA President Walter Gerboth. As Steuermann stated:

I am concerned with the possibility of interesting NASM in the idea of prescribing not only adequate library collections for accreditation purposes, but also stipulating a need for professional librarians to administer them. To the best of my knowledge, this is not being done (the latter). In one of our sessions at Minneapolis about young librarians there seemed to be an indication of fewer available positions generally for music librarians but more interest on the part of music students in becoming music librarians, with the eventual likelihood of an overabundance of personnel available for nonexistent jobs.

In this presentation I’ve touched upon only a few of the issues confronting the Midwest Chapter in earlier years. Other matters to receive attention during the highly-productive decade of the 1960s include the education of music librarians (in terms of appropriate courses on music librarianship for library school curricula); the potential for cooperation with the American Society of University Composers and with other professional organizations; surveys of midwest holdings, facilities, or personnel; and several proposals for publication projects. Among the latter was a series of brief bibliographies, indexes, and studies entitled “Explorations in Music Librarianship” which was inaugurated by Guy Marco of Kent State University.

One way to determine what issues were considered most important during any given period of an organization’s history is to examine its committee structure. When the chapter was founded in the early 1940s, seven committees were established: Membership, Publicity, Regional Catalogs, Cooperation in the Acquisition of Books, Cooperative Indexing, Collecting Regional Music, and Cooperation with Other Organizations in Related Fields. When Bruno Nettl became chair in 1963, he reorganized the committee structure to include a Committee on Music in Small Libraries, the Program Committee, and other committees for Education, Publication, and Long-Range Planning. As he mentioned in a letter of 8 January 1964 to Lloyd Engelbrecht:

Actually, I’ve gone into the committee business rather whole-hog, partly because I’d like to get more people involved in chapter activities ... partly because I think the chapter should do more than just have meetings once a year; and mostly because I think it’s time to have people think of what the chapter should do, in the long run.

In examining the Midwest Chapter committee structure of the present day, one notes several committees, such as Membership and Program, which have remained fairly constant through the years. But we also have TAPS—the acronym for Technology, Archives, Preservation and Sound.

From a personal perspective, I found that looking through the Midwest Chapter materials in the MLA Archives brought back a great many pleasant memories. There are the official documents, of course, including minutes of meetings, committee reports, membership lists, financial records, and conference programs. But one also finds other, less-
official bits and pieces of Midwest Chapter history, such as a map indicating location of members in 1958, several lists of sample music reference questions, and a copy of a song sung to Kurtz Myers at one of our meetings, as he was about the leave the chapter to accept a position elsewhere. The song was actually a parody of the ancient, "Sumer is icumen in" canon, but entitled for this occasion, "Kurtz Myers is A-leavin Us, Loudly Sing Boo Hoo." Even the financial records can be fascinating, in that they provide a vivid example of the ravages of inflation. In 1968 chapter dues were a bargain at $1.00 per year. And in 1949, you could attend a conference and stay in a hotel for the rather reasonable nightly rate of $3.50, unless you insisted upon more luxurious accommodations which might set you back all of $7.60.

My overriding impression as I was looking through these archival records is that our predecessors in the Midwest Chapter worked very hard and accomplished a great deal in the face of formidable obstacles. They succeeded despite the lack of tools we now take for granted, such as personal computers, e-mail, fax machines, photocopiers, or even electric typewriters. We are now building upon a solid foundation laid down by those who came before us. A number of projects which were to be addressed eventually on the national level (such as, for example, the idea of producing basic lists) had their inception in the Midwest Chapter. Of course, a whole range of additional issues have been with us from our earliest years, and will undoubtedly remain as vital chapter concerns well into the future. Prime examples include cooperative acquisition programs and maintaining an appropriate balance between concerns of public libraries and issues affecting academic libraries primarily.

I would characterize the major achievement of the early 1940s as simply surviving as a chapter despite the hardships of the war years. The later 1940s and the 1950s witnessed a marked expansion in the establishment of music libraries, especially on college and university campuses, along with the fostering of a continuing partnership between music librarians and musicologists. The decade of the 1960s found members of the Midwest Chapter, in common with American society as a whole during this era, examining their role, questioning prior assumptions, and expanding their outlook to include new projects, new ways of looking at their responsibilities, and new areas of concern.

Our history as a chapter exists in a state of constant evolution, and that we should take steps each year to insure that the activities of today are well documented. This will benefit those curious individuals of the year 2041, who will undoubtedly wish to look back in some detail upon 100 years of music librarianship in the Midwest. Looking into my own crystal ball, I can well imagine that they will probably exclaim over our ability, in 1996, to operate a chapter with annual dues of only $8.00 per year. And they may also look back in astonishment at the relatively primitive state of our present technology, and marvel at how we were able nonetheless to complete our responsibilities and leave a solid legacy for those who were to come after us.

Notes


Committee Reports

Bylaws Committee
Submitted by
Beth Christensen
St. Olaf College

The Bylaws Committee examined the chapter bylaws and recommended a minor change, which was voted upon at the 1996 annual meeting. The change redirects the chapter’s Secretary/Treasurer from serving as chair of the Membership Committee to being a voting member. This is more consistent with the organization of other committees within the chapter. The proposed modification of the bylaws was distributed in the September 1996 issue of Midwest Note-Book and was passed unanimously at the chapter’s annual business meeting.

Cataloging Committee
Submitted by
Mary Huismann
University of Wisconsin—Whitewater

Eight people attended the annual meeting of the Cataloging Committee, held 31 October 1996 at the University of Notre Dame.

The committee sponsored the first Friday afternoon session at the meeting. “From the Handwritten Card to AACR3: Cataloging Past and Present.” The speakers included Grace Fitzgerald, Ruth Inman, and Mark Scharff.

The greater part of the meeting was devoted to discussion of current cataloging issues, including technology (what we have and what we would like to have in our cataloging areas), dealing with “older” formats such as LPs and 78s, sheet music, and ideas for the upcoming MLA Technical Services Roundtable (to be held at the New Orleans meeting).

Grace Fitzgerald is the new chair of the committee. The committee currently has eight members: Grace Fitzgerald (University of Iowa), chair; Mary Huismann (University of Wisconsin—Whitewater), past chair; Richard Burbank (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign); Paul Cauthen (University of Cincinnati); Lynn Gullickson (University of Northern Iowa); Ruth Inman (Kennedy-King College); Mark Scharff (Washington University); and Anna Sylvester (University of Missouri—Kansas City). Anyone who is interested in serving as a committee member should contact either the Cataloging Committee chair or the chapter chair.

Public Services Committee
Submitted by
Eunice Schroeder
Lawrence University

The Public Services Committee met on 31 October 1996 with all members and eight guests present. The meeting began with an informal discussion of library re-organization, management styles, and some potential problems encountered in moving toward the team approach, including writing and re-writing policies. Members agreed that this might possibly be a worthwhile topic for a session at a future chapter meeting.

Alan Green, chair of the Reference Performance Subcommittee of the Reference and Public Services Committee of MLA, described the Wisconsin-Ohio Reference Evaluation Program, a three-year project designed to provide an objective means of evaluating reference desk services. He encouraged those present to consider participating in this program by beta testing a version of it for departmental libraries such as music libraries. There was some discussion of various reference service configurations in different music libraries and how the project might work under these varying circumstances.

Finally, there was a report by Jack

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Stewart on the new Midwest Chapter World Wide Web site. This was followed by discussion of questions such as how the site should look and what should be included. It was agreed that the Public Services Committee officially recommend that the chapter establish a Web advisory committee to deal with these issues.

**Publications Committee**

*Submitted by Laura-Gayle Green*  
*University of Missouri—Kansas City*

The Publications Committee is pleased to report the completed revision of *A Directory of Music Collections in the Midwestern United States*. The printed directory is available for $15 (checks payable to MLA Midwest); please contact A. Ralph Papakhian, Music Library, Indiana University, Bloomington IN 47405 for a printed copy. The directory is also available through the MLA Clearinghouse World Wide Web site. The URL for the directory is: http://www.music.indiana.edu/tech_s/mla/mwdirect.asc. Many thanks to Steve Wright for his hard work compiling the edition.

The Publications Committee met in Notre Dame and contemplated several new projects, which will be investigated further.

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**Technology, Archives, Preservation, and Sound Committee**

*Submitted by Phyllis Danner*  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

The Technology, Archives, Preservation, and Sound (TAPS) Committee met on Thursday, 31 October at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana to reflect on past and future issues related to the four subjects. The brainstorming session was attended by 16 MLA Midwest Chapter librarians and archivists, keepers of the myriad and diverse music collections throughout the region.

Members shared common concerns and individual solutions regarding the spectrum of preservation issues related to electronic records, the virtual library, and environmental concerns. Other topics addressed included: job-related illnesses (personnel preservation!), how preservation efforts are perceived by fellow staff members, administrators, and users; proper housing of materials; reformatting materials by using recycled paper (acid-neutral by virtue of the recycling process); and user education. Members exchanged information regarding vendors of preservation supplies and institutional preservation expenditures; the importance of maintaining positive relations with building maintenance administrators and other personnel; reassessing and weeding performance collections; and the importance of reviewing and updating disaster plans on a regular basis. Of special interest to all in attendance were issues and solutions related to technology: working with obsolete equipment and software; how to stay current with advances in the same; methods used to archive software; and how placing music collections on the World Wide Web affects musicology (authority, verification of provenance, and authentication).

The committee defined a mission as well as long-range objectives that include a plan to heighten awareness of colleagues, administrators, and users of the importance of preservation; contributing a preservation tips column ("TIPS from TAPS") for inclusion in the MLA Midwest Note-Book, and developing a preservation presentation for the 1997 annual meeting in Minneapolis.
Minutes

Music Library Association
Midwest Chapter
Annual Business Meeting
1 November 1996
South Bend, Indiana

The meeting was called to order at 1:25 p.m. by the chapter chair, Stephen Wright.

The minutes of the 1995 annual meeting as recorded in the January, 1996 issue of the Midwest Note-Book were approved.

Treasurer’s Report
Submitted by Robert Delvin

The annual financial report was distributed prior to the start of the business meeting (checking account balance as of 1 October 1995, $718.47; total income, $4,555.00; total disbursements, $3541.87; checking account balance as of 30 September 1996, $1731.60; savings account balance as of 30 September 1996, $738.90; total assets as of 30 September 1996, $2470.50). The report was approved.

Announcements

Local Arrangements Committee chair Rick Jones and Program Committee Chair Leslie Troutman were publicly thanked for the success of the 1996 chapter meeting.

Midwest Chapter Library Exchange Program: At least one library exchange grant will be available during the forthcoming year. The deadline for applications is 1 March, 1997. Applications should be submitted to the chapter chair.

The deadline for submissions (including, committee reports) for the January 1997 issue of the Midwest Note-Book is 15 December, 1996. A call was issued for an assistant newsletter editor. The primary responsibility of this person would be the collecting of materials for the newsletter. Interested persons should contact the chapter chair.

It was announced that the Midwest Chapter now has its own World Wide Web site: http://www.uky.edu/OtherOrgs/MLAMidwest. Jack Stewart was thanked for his efforts in creating the Web site. A Web site subcommittee of the Public Services Committee is being formed to assist in the development and maintenance of the site. Persons interested in serving on this subcommittee should contact the chapter chair.

Future Midwest Chapter meetings:
1997—Minneapolis, Minnesota (16-18 October)
1998—Kalamazoo, Michigan
1999—Cedar Falls, Iowa
2000—There is continuing discussion about a joint meeting with the MLA Southeast Chapter, possibly in Cincinnati, Ohio

Steve Wright introduced Diane Parr Walker (University of Virginia), chair-elect of the national MLA organization. She encouraged chapter members to take a look at the Plan 2001 recently adopted by the national MLA board. Diane particularly called attention to objective 4, which deals with strengthening regional chapters.

Holly Borne (Butler University) briefly reported on her attendance of the 1996 meeting of IAML in Perugia, Italy. The 1997 meeting is scheduled to be held in Geneva, Switzerland.

Steve Wright announced the publication of his supplement to the Westcott film music bibliography.

The chair acknowledged retired chapter members attending the anniversary meeting: Jack Chitwood, Dena Epstein, Marion Korda, Kurtz Meyers, Elizabeth Olmstead, and Phyllis Schoonover. He also read greetings from other former members unable to attend.

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Committee Reports

Anniversary Steering Committee

Jean Geil (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) thanked all who assisted with the planning and success of the anniversary meeting. She specifically acknowledged Bonna Boettcher, Allie Goudy, Marty Jenkins, Sue Stancu, Steve Sundell, Linda Hartig, Rick Jones, Leslie Troutman, Steven Wright, Dena Epstein, Marion Korda, and Therese Dickman for their various contributions.

Bylaws Committee

See new business below.

Cataloging Committee

Mary Huismann (University of Wisconsin—Whitewater) announced that Grace Fitzgerald (University of Iowa) would be taking over as committee chair.

Membership Committee

Nothing to report.

Public Services Committee

Eunice Schroeder (Lawrence University) reported that members of the Public Services Committee perceived a need for a possible ad-hoc subcommittee charged with the development and maintenance of the chapter Web site.

Publications Committee

Laura-Gayle Green (University of Missouri—Kansas City) announced the publication of a Directory of Music Libraries in the Midwest, second edition, available from the MLA Clearing House. It is available either as an ASCII file or in hard copy for $15.00.

Technology, Archives, Preservation, and Sound

Phyllis Danner (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) reported that the committee continues discussion of its mission and objectives.

Election Results

Robert Delvin announced that Lynn Gullickson (University of Northern Iowa) had been elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect of the chapter. Steve Wright thanked the Nominating Committee for its work and also thanked both candidates for their willingness to run for election.

Old Business

There was no old business for discussion.

New Business

Beth Christensen (St. Olaf College), Bylaws Committee, presented a proposed change to the chapter bylaws, Article VI. Committees. The following proposed text was distributed prior to the business meeting:

The Membership Committee, comprising no fewer than three voting members appointed by the chapter chair, shall be responsible for attracting new members to the chapter. The Secretary/Treasurer shall serve as chair of the Membership Committee a voting member of the committee.

The amended text was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert C. Delvin, Secretary/Treasurer