ALBUQUERQUE TO HOST SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

Plan now to attend the annual Conference of the Mountain/Plains Chapter on May 24-25 (Thursday & Friday), hosted by Jim Wright and the staff of the Fine Arts Library at UNM. Meetings will be in the Zimmerman Library (the main library) in the Clinton P. Anderson Room.

Program plans are shaping up nicely but we would like to hear from anyone who could make a 15-minute to 1-hour presentation on really any aspect of music librarianship. We also want to continue using the "research reports" format employed last year to hear some of our members report on projects underway or recently completed. Call or write to Jim Wright at UNM or Dorman Smith at UofA (see directory in this issue) for more information. Two particularly noteworthy events scheduled are: (1) a presentation of the new "high-tech" audio formats with discussion of their applicability to music librarians; (2) a (not expensive) dinner at the historic Territorial House in nearby Corrales on Thursday night.

A registration packet is soon to be put together and mailed to our far-flung membership giving more details and a provisional program. However, for you early-birds, lodging arrangements can be made now at the Howard Johnson's 6 blocks from campus, at 900 Medical Arts NE, Albuquerque NM 87102. Phone: (505) 243-5693 (ask for Dick).

See you in Albuquerque!
CONVENTIONAL TITLE is published by the Mountain-Plains Chapter of the Music Library Association.

Dorman Smith ............... Acting Editor
Karl Kroeger ............... Production & Distribution
Mona Frontain ............... Typist

This newsletter actively seeks to serve as a written forum for the open discussion of issues relating to music librarianship. Your participation in this forum is encouraged. Please submit all information, queries, articles, suggestions for articles, etc., to: Dorman Smith, Music Collection, 115 Music Bldg., University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721. We need your input!

ALL OR ANY PART OF THIS NEWSLETTER MAY BE PHOTOCOPIED FOR THE NONCOMMERCIAL PURPOSE OF EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR HUMBLE ACTING EDITOR

In the report on our 1983 meeting in Norman, Oklahoma (see p. 3) you can see that the membership set up a Publications Committee composed of Karl Kroeger, Darlene Fawver and me. Karl and I felt fortunate that Darlene had come forward as a result of our plea for an editor; but fate was not so kind. She was suddenly and unceremoniously dismissed from her job (but quickly found another out of our area) and we were left empty-handed.

Most of you, I am sure, know that it is not easy to fill the shoes of our former editor, Arne Arneson, and probably this opus will confirm that I am not the one to even try. If you have been searching the newsstands all the past several months in search of the next Conventional Title, I owe you an apology; its late appearance is entirely my responsibility.

The Chapter Board is quite convinced that we need a regular editor (this is my second opus as acting editor) and more frequent appearance. For a chapter as geographically disunited, the newsletter can play an important role in keeping business and information flowing. SO, ARE YOU A FRUSTRATED EDITOR WITHOUT A PUBLICATION TO EDIT? Write or call me now.

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PRESERVATION AND STORAGE OF 78RPM RECORDINGS

We received the following note from Sally Evans at the Vincent Morgan Library at Amherst College, Amherst, MA 01002:

"A committee of the New England Chapter of MLA is looking into the '78 rpm problem'. Though such questions as preservation and storage must be addressed, the committee is beginning its work with an investigation of the desirability, with all its related pros and cons, of establishing one or more regional archival collections in our area.

To that end we write you to ask if you are aware of any similar investigations or any cooperative archival facilities in your area. Do you know of any group of libraries that have mutually worked out a solution to questions of 78 rpm collections (or any that have tried and failed)?

We would be grateful for any information or leads you might be able to provide. Thank you."
The annual meeting of the Mountain-Plains Chapter was held in Norman, Oklahoma on May 19-20, 1983. The program chairperson was Chapter President Marc Faw of the University of Oklahoma.

The first day's meetings began with a paper on Oklahoma Indian music by Daryl Morrison (University of Oklahoma). This was followed by a "show and tell" period in which several chapter members reported on special projects and/or research they have undertaken. The afternoon session was devoted to computers and the music library, and included reports on the online systems at the University of Oklahoma libraries by Fred Batt, Nedria Santizo and Patricia Weaver-Myers. That evening a special concert of Verdi songs was given by Nancy Engel Nino.

On the second day, there was a session on conservation and preservation. A report on the preservation of print materials was given by Michael Holland of the Oklahoma State Library. There was also an open forum on the preservation of sound recordings.

At the annual business meeting a publications committee was formed consisting of Dorman Smith (University of Arizona), Karl Kroeger (University of Colorado-Boulder) and Darlene Fawver (Wichita Public Library). It was also proposed at this meeting that the 1984 annual meeting of the chapter be held in Albuquerque.

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MOUNTAIN-PLAINS CHAPTER
MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Financial Report 1983

Previous balance 936.13

Cash receipts
- Memberships (1983) 105.00
- Memberships (1984) 5.00
- Registrations (1983) 232.50

Total cash receipts 342.50

Cash disbursements
- 1983 conference expenses
  - Verdi recital 265.00
  - postage for mailings 62.30
  - guides to campus 1.50
  - AV expenses for Daryl Morrison presentation 16.00
  - additional expenses (desserts, folders, etc) 20.00

Total cash disbursements 364.80

Present balance (September 30, 1983) 913.83

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Eagleson
Secretary/Treasurer
During the summer of 1983, one of our projects here in the Music Library was to update our vocal sheet music index. The index was compiled one year earlier during the summer of 1982, and it represented the first effort in the library to bring order to our sheet music collection. This collection, while modest in size (3500 pieces), is still large enough to be of use to our patrons as well as to our students of American music. The music was acquired through gifts over the years.

When we decided to bring some order to the chaos, in the spring of 1982, sheet music was scattered in various places in the library, mostly among unsorted gifts. Our first job, therefore, was to collect it and put it all in one place. Secondly, we had to decide what kind of indexes we needed in our library and what kind of information should accompany each entry. With the help of some of our music professors, as well as library personnel, we decided to make alphabetical listings according to title, first line, composer, and lyricist. The music would be arranged by year on the shelves. This arrangement would serve as another index for those studying music of an era.

For many reasons, including convenience, we decided to use the Radio Shack Model II microcomputer owned by Norlin Library. We chose the file maintenance program called "Profile," an off-the-shelf program by Radio Shack, as our software. Thus our index required no programming—just a few hours adjusting the system to our data. Each entry would contain 132 spaces divided into seven fields: title, first line, composer's last name, composer's first name, lyricist, year, and comments. This information was copied from the pieces of music onto worksheets, one worksheet for each piece of sheet music. These worksheets were time-consuming, but by using them we cut down on errors and the time spent at the terminal. Also, the fragile music did not have to be transported back and forth across the campus. One student assistant was trained to input the data into the computer, working from the worksheets.

Working with the microcomputer had many advantages, as I have mentioned. However, there was one large disadvantage. At the time the index was done—summer of '82—the disc drive used by the microcomputer was capable of only 800-1000 records per disc. Since there was no way to include all our titles on one disc, we decided to use several discs in order to leave enough room for future expansion. We divided our data into six categories:

- 1800's and no dates
- 1900-1909
- 1910-1919
- 1920-1929
- 1930-1949
- 1950-present

Each category contained 300-400 records and each category was put on a separate disc, leaving enough space to double our collection. However, we now have six separate portions in each index. When searching for a title, if a patron knows
a title but does not know the year of publication, he or she must look through six listings for the title desired. In use this has caused little inconvenience since the listings are all in one notebook together and are fairly short.

As of this past summer (1983) the library has a new disc drive for the microcomputer which increases the capacity of each disc considerably. Perhaps later we will find a way to dump data from one disc drive to another and thus eliminate some of our "pieces" of index.

Another of our planned projects has been to index the instrumental sheet music. We did not choose to include strictly instrumental music with the vocal sheet music. The instrumental music project was quite a bit smaller than the one for vocal sheet music, since we owned only about 600-800 pieces of instrumental sheet music suitable for indexing. We were able to complete this project last summer (1983) as planned. It became a parallel project to the updating of the vocal index. Since lyricist and first line did not apply to the instrumental music, we were able to include publisher information in each entry. An entry included title, composer, publisher, year, genre, and location within the library. Only two indexes were made and those were by composer and title. We were able to get all data on one disc with room for expansion, due to our new disc drive.

With my gift of 20/20 hindsight, I have considered what I would have done differently. I wish we had been able to use the new disc drive for our vocal indexes, but, at the time, we were not at all sure we would get it. I would have liked to include publisher information with each entry of the vocal indexes. If I had it to do over, I think I would shorten some of the other entries, or even eliminate one, in order to include publisher. Otherwise, the indexes have served us well and have been a great help. What a pleasure it has been working with the marvelous old (and not so old) pieces of sheet music. Remember "The Curse of an Aching Heart?" We eventually made a library display of some of the lovely old lithographs.

We solved the problem of storage by ordering acid-free storage boxes, each of which holds 100-200 pieces of music. The vocal sheets are stored in these boxes arranged by year, alphabetized by title within each year. The boxes are labeled by the years and stored on the shelf. This way the music can lie flat and searching for the pieces is made easier by the drop side on each box. Our instrumental music will be stored also in these boxes, but arranged alphabetically by title.

The update that we did this summer was made possible (necessary) by two large gifts from Barbara Ponder and Terry Edwards, and several smaller ones which we greatly appreciate. We actively solicit sheet music gifts and hope eventually to have a large and valuable collection.

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GREATER NEW YORK MUSIC DIRECTORY

The Greater New York Chapter of the Music Library Association has published a forty-five page Directory of Music Collections in the Greater New York Area. Compiled by Nina Davis-Millis (Manhattan School of Music) and edited by Lakshmi Kapoor (Hewlett-Woodmere Public Library), it includes descriptive material, contact names, addresses and telephone numbers for over 100 collections in academic, public, special and private libraries. To order a copy, send a check for $5.00 ($3.50 plus $1.50 shipping and handling) payable to GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER, MLA to the secretary-treasurer, Siegrun H. Folter, Herbert H. Lehman College Library, Bedford Park Blvd. West, Bronx, NY 10468.
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Prospective New Members

Eric Western  
Cataloger  
University of Utah

Ralph Hartsock  
Cataloger  
Northern Arizona University

Nancy Carter  
Cataloger  
University of Colorado, Boulder

Marie Kroeger  
Music Librarian  
University of Denver

*Member, Music Library Association  
1/84
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Mountain-Plains Chapter Elections

It is time once again - this happens every two years - for the membership to elect the Chapter officers. Domman Smith, Vice-Chairman, will become chapter chair and we need to elect the new Vice-Chairman/Chairman Elect, the new Secretary/Treasurer and the Member at Large.

A Nominations Committee composed of Domman Smith, Charles King and Laurie Eagleson proposed the following slate:

Vice-Chairman/Chairman Elect
Karl Kroeger - University of Colorado

Secretary/Treasurer
Ralph Hartsock - Northern Arizona University
Laurie Eagleson - University of Arizona

Member at Large
Carolyn Dow - Lincoln Public Library
Earl Gates - University of Kansas

The Nominations Committee would gladly accept further nominations from the membership and will include any on the ballot if received within a month of this mailing.

AT THIS WRITING, THERE ARE NO MEMBERS PAID FOR 1984. Please see the form below. We will be mailing ballots only to paid-up members.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 1984

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
MOUNTAIN-PLAINS CHAPTER
MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Enclosed please find my check for $5.00 for membership in the Mountain-Plains Chapter of the Music Library Association.

NAME: _____________________________________________

ADDRESS: __________________________________________

CITY: ___________________ STATE: ___________ ZIP: ______

INSTITUTION: ______________________

OFFICE PHONE: ( ) ___________ HOME PHONE: ( ) ___________

☐ I am a member of the Music Library Association.

Please make check or money order payable to the Mountain-Plains Chapter, MLA, and mail to: Laurie Eagleson, Sec./Treas., 9532 E. Irene, Tucson, AZ 85730.

The membership year is from January 1 to December 31.

Please notify us of a change of address.