Anita Breckbill and Carolyn Dow organized the conference held in Lincoln. We began with a pre-conference social at the home of Dave and Anita Breckbill. They have a beautiful older home, lovingly restored, and the perfect setting for an evening of great food and conversation and beautiful music. We enjoyed the flute music furnished by Carolyn, and then a flute/piano duo by Anita and Dave. We laughed as Jean Jensen entertained us with Cinderella, as only she can tell it. The BYU contingent brought various selections from their Early Sheet Music Collection and we sang some silly lyrics, with Dave pressed into impromptu service as accompanist.

On May 16 we met in Carolyn Dow's home base, the Bennett Martin Public Library (affectionately nicknamed BMPL—rhymes with pimple). BMPL’s rather ordinary-looking facade hides a charming secret-courtyard whose plants and pools can be viewed through a large window in the elevator. Our meetings began in the fourth floor conference room. Myrna Layton (BYU) presented a paper about the dichotomous works of the American composer Ruth Crawford Seeger who composed in both dissonant counterpoint and also the folk song idiom. Carolyn Dow (BMPL) presented two papers. The first was about the Greek poetess Sappho. Carolyn then introduced us to the Polley Music Library web page.

After lunch and a chance to tour the Polley Music Library, Janet Bradford (BYU) presented a paper about the John Addison Film Music Collection held by BYU. Anita Breckbill (UNL) reprised her MLA presentation about the caricatures in the Rokahr Family Archive held by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

We completed the afternoon with a walk to the Nebraska State Capitol Building. A talented guide entertained us as she showed off this magnificent edifice and its art work. Four of us (Anita, Janet, Irene and Myrna) wandered into the library and were treated to a tour of that facility, which included the opportunity to go through a secret door which led to a secret balcony hidden behind a sculpture on the face of the building. Dinner at an East Indian restaurant called "The Oven" rounded out the evening.

Saturday morning, May 17, found us at the university’s Don L. Love Memorial Library to which we were welcomed by the Dean of Libraries, Joan Giesecke. Anita’s colleague Kay Walter, the chair of the University of Nebraska’s Special Collections and Preservation Department, demonstrated “Digital Initiatives in the UNL Electronic Text Center.” Many of us gleaned ideas for ways we may be able to use more digital resources in our own libraries.

We partook of Czech pastries, and then Anita led us on a tour of the Sheldon Art Gallery and the UNL Music Library where we saw the original caricatures in the Rokahr Family Archive. Anita has a nice library with a friendly, welcoming atmosphere.

Noon Saturday found us on our way to the Skyboxes in the memorial Stadium. We were in the skybox of the University Chancellor, no less! What a coup for Anita! There we enjoyed pizza and salads and desserts, and enjoyed the view of the stadium.

After lunch, those who wished to stay were chauffeured in a UNL van to Mahoney State Park where we climbed a lookout and were able to see miles and miles of the Platte River. Our second stop was the Nebraska Wildlife Safari where we watched North American animals in their native habitat. Then back to Lincoln and the end of a very good conference.

---Myrna Layton

MPMLA 2004 Annual Meeting, Tempe, Arizona
Arizona State University, May 20-23, 2004

Brian Doherty reports, "We have an excellent facility with plenty of meeting space and are located within walking distance of downtown Tempe."
Brigham Young University

The exhibit Master Harpists of the 20th Century will be on display through Dec. 20. It was well received by members of the American Harp Society who were meeting in Salt Lake City in June. A large group made an excursion to BYU to enjoy the exhibit, lectures, and reception.

David Day is on leave this semester working to complete his dissertation by January.

Sherry Wadham is retiring in late October. She was honored at a reception Oct. 22.

Irene and Ron Halliday enjoyed a trip in June to Alaska via ship, plane and car. Janet and Daron Bradford joined the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in June for a concert tour in the eastern U.S. Daron is a member of the orchestra.

Don Roberts

Don enjoys retirement and his new home in Santa Fe, NM, where he enjoys the varied cultural life style and Pueblo Indian ceremonies.

Judy Marley

On August 5, Judy accepted a full-time position as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the School of Library and Information Studies at Texas Woman's University (TWU) in Denton. She also serves as an adjunct faculty member at the University of North Texas.

Marc Faw

Last March, Marc and Phyllis joined Charles and Fenita King for the opera in Sarasota, Florida. In June, Marc and Phyllis took a cruise tour to Alaska. They stopped in Juneau and saw the Mendenhall Glacier, then on to the Yukon Territory, and a catamaran to Eagle, Alaska, took a small chartered plane to the Arctic Circle at Fort Yukon, stopped at Denali and took a train to Anchorage. In the future, Marc thinks he might attend fewer operas and go on more cruises. Tough retirement!

New Mexico State Univ.

The library is in the preliminary stages of acquiring the music scores, papers and recordings of composer Warner Hutchison.

Sherry Ward is working on several name authority projects and coordinating the downloading of e-books for two of our branch campuses.

The library hired a new Arts and Humanities Reference Librarian, Mardi Mahaffy. She will make a good addition not only to the staff at NMSU but also to MPMLA.

Gary Mayhood is teaching in the Library Tech. Program via distance education at the Dona Ana Branch Community College.

He teaches Cataloging and Care of Music in the Small Library, and Introduction to Technical Services.

Polley Music Library (Lincoln City Libraries)

In the fiscal year ending August 2003, music library staff answered over 40,000 reference questions!

Bell Canto, by Ann Patchett, was chosen for the community-wide reading program, and the library staff has been involved with programming related to the music mentioned in the book.

At the Nebraska Library Association conference this month, Linda Helfman received an award for the Polley Music Library web site. Carolyn Dow will assume the responsibilities of Chair of the Special & Institutional Section of the state library association.

Staff members are working with the city Library Foundation on a fundraising plan for the music library, which is entirely supported by interest income from the Lilian Helms Polley Trust, and we all know how stocks and bonds have been performing!

Univ. of Colorado, Boulder

Laurie Patchett has a son born May 14 named Blake Logan. Congratulations!

University of Denver

The university has 315 music majors this quarter and the library is really buzzing.

Suzanne Moulton-Gertig will be taking a sabbatical winter quarter and will be working on a harp research index.

University of Utah

Several departments from the Marriott Library participated in the annual Book Festival sponsored by the Utah Humanities Council, September 13-14 in the new Salt Lake City Public Library.

Hiromi Matsushita was given a new assignment to help catalog materials for the Rare Books Division of the Marriott Library. She continues a project to reclass/recatalog old music scores from Dewey to LC, with about 500 titles converted and updated.
President Janet Bradford brought the business meeting to order. Minutes of the 2002 annual meeting in Las Cruces, New Mexico, were approved.

Treasurer's reports—Anita Breckbill presented MPMLA's financial reports for the fiscal year 2001-2002 and for a portion of the fiscal year 2002-2003. It was noted that the current balance for the chapter includes $1300 grant money from MLA.

Membership—Anita noted that current membership is about 40. MPMLA lost six members this year—three to moves and three to non-payment of chapter dues for three years. During the year Matthew Grzybowski from the MLA business office sent a file listing MLA members who live in the mountain-plains region. Anita sent e-mails offering membership to those on the list who are not currently members of MPMLA.

Janet suggested that each state be surveyed for music librarians in the state. The following list was made for state surveys, and the volunteer surveyors will get back to Janet by November 1, 2003, with information on their assigned states: Steve Luttmann—Colorado and the Dakotas; Brian Doherty—Arizona and Kansas; Janet Bradford—Idaho and Utah; Irene Halliday—Nevada and Oklahoma; Myrna Layton—Montana and Canada; and Anita Breckbill—Nebraska.

MLA grant—In 1998 $1300 was received as a grant from MLA for a specific purpose that is now obsolete. Janet suggested that the grant be used as a travel grant for first-time attenders at an MPMLA annual meeting. Discussion ensued with the following ideas brought forth on the issue of boosting meeting attendance: include library commissions, other libraries in the area, dance librarians, etc., in the invitations to annual meetings; find websites on which to post meeting announcements; plan the program earlier—so paraprofessionals can justify attendance; possibly meet with another chapter.

Janet asked how to divide the grant money. The suggestion was made that either free registration with the banquet be provided, or an amount of money, such as $200, toward travel and lodging. Some sort of restrictions should be put on the money, such as offering grants to those new to the profession or to first-time attenders. We should try to sustain the program over several years, and if it proves successful we could ask for more grant money from MLA. Janet will write guidelines for the use of the grant and use the board as grant dispensers. Two grants will be offered for the next meeting.

2004 annual meeting—There are no volunteers yet to host the 2004 annual meeting. Brian Doherty mentioned that it might be possible to meet in Tempe. Carolyn Dow volunteered to be program chair next year. She would try to finalize the program by the time of the MLA annual meeting.

Best of chapter—Attenders voted for MPMLA papers that will be forwarded to MLA's Best of Chapter committee. These papers will be considered for possible presentation at a future MLA meeting and publication in *Notes*. Janet Bradford's paper on the film music of John Addison and Anita Breckbill's on musical caricatures of Andre Gill will be forwarded to the Best of Chapter committee.

Election—The bi-annual election of MPMLA officers will be held next year. Cheryl Taranto will be rotating in as the chair-elect as a result of the 2002 election tie.

Lincoln thanks—Thanks were given to Carolyn Dow and Anita Breckbill for planning the Lincoln meeting.

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**MLA Mountain-Plains Chapter Financial Report**

**Fiscal year 2002-2003**

*(July 1, 2001-June 30, 2003)*

**Beginning check balance** $3707.48

**Receipts**

- Membership dues $220.00
- Conference registration and extras 840.00

**Total receipts** $1060.00

**Disbursements**

- Newsletter (2 mailings) $59.18
- Receipt book 3.42
- Conference expenses 637.19

**Total disbursements** $699.79

**Ending balance** $4067.69*

*Please note that $1300.00 of the ending balance is from an MLA grant; the actual balance for regular chapter expenses is $2767.69.*
New MPMLA member
Carole Goebes is originally from Indianapolis where she earned her BM in flute from Butler University. She received her MM from the University of Hartford, then played in U.S. Army bands for about nine years in New Jersey, New York City, and Heidelberg, Germany. She earned an MLS from Florida State in 1986 and has worked at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln since then.

Carole's big hobby is early music and she is involved with groups which perform formal concerts as well as church, school, or festival gigs. She also likes the outdoors and has recently renewed her interest in rocks and fossils by enrolling in geology and anthropology courses.
The 2003-2004 Membership Directory included with this issue has been removed from the online version for reasons of security.