Adventures in Cataloging Music Gift Collections
Lessons Learned from a Music Cataloging Internship
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ABSTRACT
This poster summarizes the presenter’s overall experience and challenges faced during a 100-hour graduate internship in music cataloging. Original and copy-cataloging work was done exclusively for music sound recordings and scores in gift collections.

While most items had one or more OCLC records, the presenter encountered many challenges in selecting the best record due to various discrepancies in descriptive cataloging and subject heading assignments.

A particularly challenging experience was the cataloging of piano scores by M. Camargo Guarnieri (1907-1993). The collection included first editions, reprints, and copyright reassignments published by various entities across Latin America. With minimal publication information on the score itself, the collection required extensive research in addition to cataloging.

GIFT COLLECTIONS: BANE OR BOON?
A cataloger may end up with miscellaneous items and mini collections that require extensive research prior to cataloging. He/She also acts as an appraiser of condition and value within music library collection for each item. Items in poor physical condition within gift collections may end up adding more work to the cataloger’s plate as a result.

However, items in gift collections provide much variety and opportunity to discover little-known creators and publishers. Many of these items may have a few or no library holdings worldwide, which allows one’s music library collection to present unique items for research and performance.

Piano Works by M. Camargo Guarnieri
- Number of titles copy-cataloged = 57
- Multiple copies for each title, and most titles were in Portuguese.
  E.g. *Cinco peças infantis*
- Most titles were associated with a dance form.
  E.g. *Danza brasileira, Dança selvage*

Dance Forms or Teaching Pieces?
- Another challenge encountered with this collection was subject heading assignment for shelflisting purposes.
- Many of the piano compositions had dance form titles, but were writing with a pedagogical emphasis, which led to a dilemma of whether to classify under M30-32 (Dance Form) or MT758 (Teaching Pieces).

Waltzes galore!
- Some were associated with a larger work, while others were stand-alone compositions. This led to some cuttering challenges
  *Valsas (de 1 a 5)* - M32.G83 V35
  *Valsa, no. 2 da sèrie dos Curumins para piano* - M32.G83 V356
  *Valsinha pretenciosa, no. 4 da sèrie dos Curumins para piano* - M32.G83 V357

Adventures in Copy-cataloging
- Some of the items lacked location or date of publication. Reprints and copyright reassignments were not clearly indicated. This turned out to be challenging when trying to find the best record to match each item.
- While there was an OCLC record present for each title, subject headings were incorrectly assigned and required some correcting along the way.
  x broader terms: e.g. Piano Music
  ✔ genre-specific narrower terms: e.g. Waltzes (Piano)

Which Ricordi is it?
- Most items listed publisher as *Ricordi Brasileira* in São Paulo, Brazil, but some listed the publisher as *Ricordi* for the same location. This led to some confusion initially, and required additional research for verification.
- A handful of scores were published by *Ricordi Americana* in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- A few items were reprints by *Ricordi Americana*.

SOUND RECORDINGS AND SUBJECT HEADINGS
Number of titled copy-cataloged = 41
Mini collections: CDs featuring works by David Greenberger, Cuban Music collection, Romani Music collection
- Almost all CDs cataloged represented popular music genres, mainly jazz, pop, and rock genres.
- Best OCLC record: to choose or not to choose? In many instances, the OCLC record was created by a member public library, and included broader term subject headings. For libraries with open CD stacks, public and otherwise, this may not pose an issue for browsing. For patrons that depend on catalog browsing or search by subject or genre, these copy records are less than ideal.
- Since the UW-Milwaukee Music Library CD collection is closed for physical browsing, almost every copy record was edited to reflect the most accurate subject heading and subheadings for works in item. 90% of the titles copy-cataloged had incorrect or redundant higher-level subject heading assignments.
  E.g. Blonde on blonde / Bob Dylan
  650 _0 Popular Music
  650 _0 Rock Music $y 1961-1970