From Our Chapter Chair

It’s early December and some people are decorating for the holidays. I’ve noticed that my librarian action figure is wearing a festive red suit. Related to Christmas kitsch, I was asked last week by the director of the School of Music if we would be willing to permanently display a collection of fifty Hummel figures from a donor. You know Hummel figures—little porcelain children and sheep and angels and general sentimentality. I mulled it over briefly, and then told him that we didn’t have room for such a display, and, more importantly, it wasn’t in any way a part of our mission (unless the donor wanted to give us a hefty endowment for our materials budget or the director would enable us to expand our footprint to a room behind our library). A response is forthcoming.

The change of season is in the air, and I’ve been thinking about how my job changes throughout the year and wondering how your jobs change. In the fall, I am often overwhelmed with bibliographic instruction, tours, tests and grading for the freshmen music majors, and with beginning to spend our yearly budget. Spring semester gives me time to look around a little bit, work on projects, and sometimes even think creatively. In summer I keep my nose to the grindstone cataloging, as our music cataloger is on a 9-month appointment. Every task has its season. The editor of this newsletter said she was “hammered” this fall, and I wonder if that is common in our jobs. I especially think about those of you who are teaching the class on music research for graduate students. I’m impressed that it is even possible to teach such a class and keep the library running simultaneously. As semesters come to an end, we can look forward to a little break in our work activities.

As the snow begins to fall, the other thing we can look forward to is a spring meeting in New Mexico. Dennis Davies-Wilson is looking at possibilities of meeting sites in Santa Fe or Albuquerque for our annual May meeting. Also, remember our MPMLA dinner, which will be in Philadelphia on Thursday night of the MLA conference. George Gibbs, the vice-chair/chair elect of our chapter, is trying to choose between a number of fabulous restaurants and I have been salivating over the menus. We’ll hope you can all attend.

That does it for the reflections from the chapter chair. Now it is time to return to the important work of the Music Library. Hummel figures anyone?

Anita Breckbill
ANNOUNCING: 2011 MPMLA ANNUAL MEETING, ALBUQUERQUE, NM!!

From Our Host:

Dennis Davies-Wilson, University of New Mexico, Los Alamos
Greetings from New Mexico!

Plans are shaping up for the annual MPMLA meeting in May 2011. The meeting will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on May 20-21, 2011. The Friday sessions will take place at the new Fine Arts and Design Library at the University of New Mexico campus. We will be using their state-of-the-art computer classroom.

♫ By the way, anyone who is planning on staying over on Saturday night might consider attending Musica Antigua de Albuquerque's performance of "Fynely Footing It: Dance Music from Renaissance England." This is the professional early music ensemble that I perform with, and this will be our final performance of the season. I have spoken with the ensemble directors, and they have agreed to offer the Senior ticket price of $13.00 to any MPMLA member.

IMPORTANT;
If you haven’t already, please help Dennis out by responding to his plea below to davies@unm.edu:

In order to finalize hotel arrangements I need some information from the membership. Sorry to trouble you with this so early, but in order to secure a block of rooms and lock in the special $109.00 rate, the hotel requires an 80% occupancy of the number of rooms that I have them block out for us. Obviously, I don't want to provide too high a figure for the number of rooms needed and then be obligated to pay for what we don't use.

Please respond to the following questions as soon as possible. I told the sales rep that I would not be able to get back to him until after the new year, so you have at least that much time.

1. Are you planning on attending?
2. Will you be getting a room by yourself, or do you intend to share a room with someone(s)?
3. Will you be arriving on Thursday, May 19th?
4. Will you be departing on Saturday, May 21st or Sunday, May 22nd?

Thank you!
MEMBER NEWS
(Contributed by Our Members, or Special Spies)

Dennis Davies-Wilson, University of New Mexico-Los Alamos

On the library front, Dennis is in the throes of developing a set of online information literacy modules, a project for which he received a Faculty Initiative Award in the amount of $3,000.00. Using Camtasia, Powerpoint, and a number of other software programs and pieces of technology, the finished project will be a set of about 14 short modules dealing with very specific information literacy concepts and skills. Each module will be accompanied by appropriate practice exercises and quizzes. WebCT will be the platform for students to gain access to the modules and accompanying material. When completed, the modules will be utilized by all of the English courses at UNM-Los Alamos as the initial method of delivering information literacy instruction. The live one-shot sessions will then be utilized to deal with the practical application of IL concepts and skills in context.

On the musical front, Dennis continues to perform with Musica Antigua de Albuquerque. The group’s new CD entitled Round and Round We Go is soon to be released, featuring canons and rounds of the Renaissance period.

George Gibbs, University of Kansas

I should follow up on the move of the KU Sound Archive, which I announced last time. The deadline for the move was June 1, 2010. We made it with about a month to care. The move turned out not to be as bad as I had anticipated. In fact, there were so many positive aspects that I almost wish we had done it earlier. With the help of the Preservation Dept. and Cataloging Dept. staff, all of the 130,000 items were touched. Many were re-sleeved or re-packaged in more preservation-friendly containers. Parts of the collection that had been gerrymandered into other space were brought back together in the proper sequence. Also, the Preservation Dept. now has full knowledge of the special needs of much of the material. Lastly, Cataloging has been giving the collection more attention so online records are being created at a faster pace. That's all for now.

From Myrna Layton, cub reporter, Brigham Young University

I want to make sure to let the MPMLA friends know that our Annie Erickson is pregnant! She and her husband have waited for seven or eight years for this to happen—they had actually made the decision to adopt because it wasn't happening—and now, wonder of wonders, Annie is expecting a baby girl on March 11. So that is Annie's news! :o)

Congrats, Annie!!!!

Suzanne Moulton-Gertig, University of Denver

Peggy Glanville-Hicks seems to follow me everywhere (which is a good trick, for she is profoundly dead). After doing papers and publishing articles, Steve Luttmann convinced me to do a review for Notes on the recent book by Victoria Rogers on P G-H’s music. It’s done, in the newest Notes,
but the best part is that I get to keep the book.

Like Steve, I resurrected an old paper from MPMLA, too, having to do with Prokofiev and harpist Eleanora Damskaya. Since 2001, more archival information has become available in Russia to supplement the original paper, and the article will be coming out in the Winter 2011 (Feb. 2011) issue of *The American Harp Journal*.

Lastly, as I finish my sixth (and last!) year on the board of the American Harp Society, I’ll be joining the Publications Awards Committee for MLA for the next three years. I’m looking forward to being a part of that committee very much.

**Cheryl Taranto, University of Nevada – Las Vegas**

Just as the semester is coming to an end here in the wild world of Vegas, I managed to get a new staff member on board at the Music Library. Her name, you ask? Dona Robertson, and she is actually just half-time with me, while she spends half-time in the main library. Dona worked at UNLV in the Libraries a few years ago but left to complete an MLS at North Texas, followed by a stint as a circulation supervisor at a public library there. Dona wanted to return to Vegas to be closer to family. . . . and, I’m busily recruiting her for the chapter!

I am really grateful the semester is coming to an end, as I get to see two of my DMA peeps I’ve been working closely with and serving on committees for finally finish documents, defend successfully, and are scheduled to graduate next week.

If you have been to either of the current Vegas shows *The Lion King* or to *Phantom* you have heard them in the pit, making more money than most of us playing these shows! No more news of note from Vegas…. Over and out…..

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**Steve Luttmann (University of Northern Colorado)**

Steve whipped up his old conference paper on the Hindemith Trumpet Sonata (from the 2005 MPMLA meeting) for publication in the 2010 *Hindemith-Jahrbuch*, and was flabbergasted several months later when the publisher asked for his bank account number – in order to wire-transfer an honorarium in the sum of 350 Euro. PAR-TAYYY!

He’s also serving a second one-year term as chair of the university’s Faculty Senate, and sleeps occasionally, but usually not at Senate meetings. You all already know about his *Notes* and MOUG stuff.

In August Steve’s library received the music collection of Ronald Grosswiler (1936-2010). Grosswiler was an alumnus and had been a teacher of guitar and piano in the Denver Public Schools for three decades. His passion in life was music for guitar and related instruments: he published several editions with Mel Bay, served in several guitar, lute, and mandolin societies – and amassed a collection of roughly 15,000 items, virtually all of them in mint or near-mint condition. Roughly two-thirds of the collection consists of music for plectral instruments, solo or in ensemble, making this one of the largest known collections of its kind. Processing will, of course, take several years, but it’s already well underway. Talk about job security . . .

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**And the Badgirl says, also:**

Congratulations to *Laurie Sampsel*, who will be an incoming Member-at-Large for the MLA Board. MPMLA has done well; as Steve Mantz leaves his position as Parliamentarian, Cheryl starts her official year on Budget, and Laurie is incoming (but I don’t know what position Ruthann talked her into yet. . . . .)
NEWEST MPMLA MEMBER: Tamara Meredith

Last week, I received a request from Tamara Meredith to join our listserv, the mpmla-l. In my email conversation with her, I learned the following from Tamara:

Hi, Suzanne,

Nice to meet you! I'm actually in Laramie, WY. We've been here for about a year and a half—my husband is the Trumpet Professor, and I'm running the Learning Resource Center, a branch of the UW Libraries.

Although my current position is not "music librarian," my background is in music and librarianship. I have an MM in Historical Performance (baroque flute/viola) from Indiana University (where I worked in acquisitions and as a monograph cataloger) and an MLIS from the University of North Texas. I also completed two years of PhD work in Musicology/Historical Performance before we ended up moving to a region that didn't have that specialization as an option nearby... Since there aren't any Music Library positions open in Wyoming (ha!) I lead a double life—faculty librarian (serving the Lab School and College of Ed) by day, baroque specialist (with orchestras in Dallas, TX and Denver, CO) by evening and weekend. For fun, I get to occasionally teach courses in the Music Department and also play "modern" violin with the Wyoming Symphony.

Since it looks like we may be here awhile and I don't get to wear my "music librarian" hat at my day job, I'm looking for opportunities to keep in touch with other music librarians and try to stay up-to-date with current practices and research. I don't know what my schedule will be like in May, but I'll keep the trek to New Mexico in mind!

Cheers,

Tamara Meredith
http://tamarameredith.webs.com

MLA in Philly, Feb. – Chapter Dinner!

FROM GEORGE:

As Vice-Chair of the MPMLA chapter, it is one of my solemn duties to select the restaurant for our Thursday night get-together at the annual meet in Philadelphia. The current plan is to meet in the lobby of the conference hotel at 5. We'll leave about 5:10 or 5:15 and walk the short distance to the restaurant. Our reservation is for 5:30. I've given the restaurant a preliminary count of 20, but I need to hear from you about whether you plan to attend so I can give the restaurant a more exact count. Please let me hear from you by Jan. 10. Thanks.

I identified several possible restaurants and have selected Upstares & Sotto Varalli. Here's the website: http://www.varalliusa.com/ It looks like an interesting restaurant space; it's within walking distance of the conference hotel; the menu items looked interesting; and more importantly, the reviews for the food and service were excellent.

Let's think positive thoughts about the weather in Philadelphia in February. I attended an ALA midwinter meeting there a number of years ago and there was an 8” snowfall during the meeting.

Please RSVP by Jan. 10. Thanks.
Members of the Mountain-Plains Chapter of MLA gathered in Manhattan, Kansas, on May 21-22, 2010, for their annual spring meeting. Kudos go to Thomas Bell and his colleagues at Kansas State University for the superb arrangements. As per tradition early arrivers met Thursday evening for a pre-meeting supper. This year’s venue was Harry’s, located in the historic Wareham Hotel, and known as Manhattans’s “premier fine dining restaurant.”

On Friday morning members met in the Montgomery Family Conference room at the Hale Library for registration and continental breakfast. Laurel Littrell (Kansas State University) began the meeting telling her compositional journey for Ancient Sorrows: Legends of the Berry Pomeroy Castle. Her presentation was accompanied by slides, sound/video excerpts and also a live cello performance by her husband, David. Nora Lewis (Kansas State University) followed with The Early Music Experience: Introducing Library Resources to the Undergraduate Music Student. Annie Erickson (Brigham Young University) ended this session with her paper titled Toward an Understanding of Music Materials and Formats.

Generous time was allowed for all to stroll about campus and wander down to Aggieville for a variety of lunch choices.

Suzanne Moulton-Gertig (University of Denver) got the afternoon session underway with her paper, Vorschlag/Acciaccatura? Music Librarian as Source Authority: Library Sources for Historical Performance Practice Questions. Bruce Gbur (Manhattan, Kansas) followed with Creating a Niche as an Independent Music Publisher: The Prairie Dawg and the Mongoose. Steven Nordstrom (Brigham Young University) then presented Cooperative Collection Development: An Introduction and Discussion.

Next was “afternoon tea” where George Gibbs’ homemade cranberry cheesecake and carrot cake were a big hit. Steve Luttmann (University of Northern Colorado) wrapped up with Another Path to Nirvana? Deconstruction of the Work Concept and Progress Toward Stasis in Arthur Russell’s “Instrumentals.”

After some down time, members met at the Little Apple Brewing Co. for an evening meal and more visiting.

Saturday morning, Anita Breckbill (University of Nebraska–Lincoln) presented Music Published by Subscription in 1820s France. Cheryl Taranto (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) followed with Minstrelsy, Stephen Foster, Italian Opera, and the American West: Travelling Opera Troupes and Their Repertory. Thomas Bell (Kansas State University) gave the final paper, Lonely Is An Eyesore: The Innovation and legacy of 4AD Records founder, Ivo Watts-Russell.

This year’s meeting concluded with lunch and a business meeting in the executive room at the Bluestem Bistro.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Bradford, Secretary/Treasurer
MPMLA Business Meeting
May 22, 2010

MPMLA Chapter Chair, Myrna Layton, called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. Minutes of the 2009 annual meeting at University of Montana were read and approved.

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report (Janet Bradford):
Attendance at this year’s meeting is seventeen and we are excited that six new members have joined our ranks this past year. The chapter’s financial account is stable with a projected end of conference balance of well over $5000 (see report at end).

Chair’s report (Myrna Layton)
We have been asked to create a chapter brochure to have available to hand out to new or interested members at MLA, ALA and other library association meetings. Layton asked for design volunteers and Margaret Kaus (Kansas State University), Carolyn Dow (Polley Public Library) and Annie Erickson (Brigham Young University) were willing to participate. It was suggested that this team consult with our chapter archivist, Laurie Eagleson (University of Arizona),

Election Results:
Election results were announced by Bradford. George Gibbs (University of Kansas) will be the new vice-chair/chair elect. Christopher Mehrens (Arizona State University) and Steven Nordstrom (Brigham Young University) tied for secretary/treasurer and after some discussion it was determined that Mehrens would serve now with Nordstrom serving the next time the position comes open. Tammy Ravas (University of Montana) was elected to continue as member-at-large. All were thanked for running and it was noted that for each position only a few votes separated the successful candidate.

Best of Chapter:
A vote was taken to determine which papers will be forwarded to this year’s MLA's Best of Chapter Committee. Winners are Anita Breckbill (University of Nebraska–Lincoln) for Music Published by Subscription in 1820s France and Cheryl Taranto (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) for Minstrelsy, Stephen Foster, Italian Opera, and the American West: Travelling Opera Troupes and Their Repertory.

Other Items of Business:
MPMLA-L: Suzanne Moulton-Gertig (University of Denver) asked that everyone be better at sending her any changes with e-mail addresses. Some members have difficulties posting messages and to date archiving is not possible. At some point we need to look into updating the platform. Would anyone like to take this on?
Future meetings: Dennis Davies-Wilson (UNM-Los Alamos Branch) volunteered via e-mails to the board that he would be willing to host next year’s meeting in New Mexico. Daryll Stevens (Colorado College) has offered a tentative invitation to Colorado Springs for 2012.
Newsletter: Suzanne Moulton-Gertig, editor of The Conventional Title, reminded all to send her news!

Respectfully submitted by Janet Bradford, Secretary/Treasure

SEE YOU IN PHILLY AND ALBUQUERQUE!