

MLA 2004 –Gisele Glover

The MLA national meeting took place in Crystal City, Virginia from Feb. 11-15. It opened on Thursday morning with a musical prelude by the President's Own United States Marine Band Brass Quintet. This was followed by a presentation of the Colors by the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard. The plenary session included a presentation by music librarians from the Library of Congress. "I Hear America Singing," is an impressive website link featuring scores and audio clips of songs in the public domain, including the "Star-Spangled Banner." I was also interested to learn that LC is a repository for the late jazz saxophonist Gerry Mulligan's papers, and some of these materials are available on this web site link as well.

I attended the MLA Facilities Sub-committee meeting, during which music librarians provide presentations on recent moves and renovations. Among those given was one by my former supervisor, Joyce Clinkscales, who has now been at Emory University in Atlanta for 10 years. Emory was founded in 1836 and has 6300 undergraduates and 5300 graduate students in various disciplines. It has 70 undergraduate music majors. Joyce is the university's first full-time music librarian; previously music reference was assigned as part of general reference service. The Marian K. Heilbrun Music and Media Library is now located on the first floor of the Old Campus Library, and it officially opened in May 2001. Its circular architecture reflects the design of the first 3 floors. It includes music, media, the library's Information and Technical Division, and a language lab. Large windows in this music library provide a scenic view of the campus from most locations. Part of the goals for the design were to preserve the views of the outside. The ceiling lights were used as a central feature. Compaq shelving was used, and Joyce cautioned that additional rods for this shelving may be needed and the floor space beneath it may need to be raised with steel grids in order to guarantee support. All in all, the results were positive and patrons are very pleased with the new facility.

At the Integrated Library Systems Sub-Committee meeting, a librarian from Harvard offered some suggestions on searching by uniform title in order to get the most out of the Aleph catalog. For instance, in new versions of Aleph, the uniform title hyperlink should retrieve additional like items. This tends, she says to produce more useful results than searching by keyword.

The Reference Performance Subcommittee meeting included two presentations. John Shepard from the New York Public Library discussed some of its primary sources. These include conductor Bruno Walter's papers (not including conducting scores), Mahler's first symphony, with annotations by the composer, and the first draft of his 7<sup>th</sup> symphony. Years ago, Suki Somer from NYPL borrowed several manuscripts of the composer Benjamin Britten from the Britten-Pears Library and the British Library, and had them microfilmed. These are now part of the Lincoln Center Performing Arts Library collection. Such a loan request would rarely if ever be honored, today.

Sarah Adams from Harvard discussed the music microfilms holdings at the Isham Library, which is adjacent to the Eda Kuhn Loeb Music Library. The collection includes over 30,000 sources on microfilm. One goal or advantage of various drafts, sketches or editions of the same musical work on microfilm is that comparisons can be made of multiple versions at one place. Some microfilms made since 1930 at Isham are sole copies of items lost during WWII. Materials microfilmed include liturgical books, antiphons, graduals, sources for Bach, Beethoven, Brahms and Mozart. Researchers come from all over the world to consult the Isham Library's holdings.

MLA's Bibliographic Control Committee meeting featured a presentation given by Jennifer Bowen of the Eastman School of Music. She heads a task force which is proposing a number of changes to terminology in the next edition of AACR2's chapter 25 (on uniform titles). I have the handout for this presentation if you would like to see more details. The title of the presentation was: FRBR (Fundamental Requirements for Bibliographic Records) and AACR Chapter 25. The goal of this proposal is to better relate bibliographic data to user tasks, and to more clearly communicate how catalogs should function.

I took one field trip from the hotel via Metro to the D.C. Public Library, where the Black Music Collections Roundtable hosted a musical program entitled: "Music and the Civil Rights Movement, including the Freedom Concerts." Vocal selections were interspersed with published excerpts about the life and career of Coretta Scott King, who with her husband Martin Luther King Jr. led this country's civil rights movement. She was also an accomplished singer, and the program included some of the spirituals and gospel tunes she is known to have performed.

Finally, the MLA Greater New York Chapter meeting at this conference was led by the new Chapter Chair, Suki Somer, who last year retired from her position as Head of the Circulating Collections for the Lincoln Center Performing Arts Library. Discussions ensued regarding possible meeting places for future chapter meetings, including a visit to a New Jersey storage site being utilized by Lincoln Center, Princeton and other tri-state libraries; and ways to update our newsletter which will now be distributed exclusively online. I was recruited to interview cataloger Peter Hirsch, another MLA-GNYC member who is working on the Wilson project, which I believe has to do with the papers of designer Robert Wilson.