

## A STUDY LEAVE IN EUROPE

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Between August 12 and September 13, 1993, I travelled in England, Germany and Switzerland, aiming to begin research on a bibliography of Newfoundland music since 1883, using the British Library Catalogue; to examine manuscript collections, on-line and historical catalogues related to music and the humanities; to exchange ideas on resource sharing, cataloguing and computer applications, and acquisitions and binding sources; and to establish personal contact with librarians, German-language booksellers, book binders and score and sheet music suppliers.

In Canada, I had developed from the *Deutscher Musikrat Musik-Almanach*, a list of music libraries in academic and research settings to visit. (My awareness of this source came through CAML's CanMus listserv, and the relevant pages were faxed by the music librarian of the University of Alberta.) Upon arrival in a city, I would call ahead if possible, or else go to the library, introduce myself, present my card, and ask if I might meet with a music or humanities librarian in connection with my work. I was received very warmly everywhere, occasionally being hosted for lunch, and librarians gave me hours of their time, describing their collections and showing me their closed stacks, reading rooms, catalogues, finding tools, automation applications, print shop/bindery, circulation and acquisitions facilities. I was taken to their rare collections and shown items such as Handel autographs in the British Library, Johannes Brahms's scores in the Staats-und Universitätsbibliothek in Hamburg, rare and beautiful manuscripts in the Munich Staatsbibliothek, and an exhibition on archival materials of the Mendelssohn Family in the Berlin Staatsbibliothek. In the former East German state music library, I viewed the original Prussian catalogues with all their detailed classification and subject entries. A meeting with the librarian of the Heinrich Heine Institut in Düsseldorf led to an introduction to the adjacent Heine-Museum, to the Archives, to the Heinrich Heine Editions, and to the new series concerning Heine's poetry and musical settings by many composers.

It was especially interesting to visit libraries in the former East Germany, visibly contrasting with the

modern libraries of West Germany. In the united Germany there are plans to renovate the neglected interior of the old music library in the beautiful, historic building of the Humboldt University and combine the music library of the modern and very large Staatsbibliothek of the former West Germany with that of the former East Germany. The former retrospective collections of both houses are back to 80 percent of their original holdings. Many treasures which were dispersed during WWII have come back through relocations and gifts, etc.

Germany's university libraries and Staatsbibliotheken are involved in collection sharing. The funding is federal, supplied by the Deutsche Forschungs Institut. Each library is responsible for buying everything published in an assigned subject area, and collects in other subject areas only to support local teaching and research activities. For example the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin collects Humanities, Law, Literature of East Europe, Asia, Africa, Government Documents and all Science journal literature. Hamburg collects Politics, Peace Studies, Public Administration, Spanish, Portuguese, Indian and Eskimo Languages and Culture, and Fishing. Staatsbibliothek Munich is responsible for Music.

Library computer applications however, seem much less advanced than in North America. Switzerland has had an integrated national MARC-based system adapted for multi-language access, for the past twenty years. But Germany, because of its decentralized system, and until recently two national identities, has only recently developed its own cataloguing standards. Many libraries are still using their card and microfiche catalogues. Some libraries have their online catalogue available only for librarians and the information desk, fearing too great a demand for uncatalogued items and for retrieval from their journal collections for staff to manage.

This travel leave meant opportunities for personal contacts and exchange of ideas with dozens of academic and state librarians, scholars in research institutes, and booksellers and dealers. A list of names and addresses of the places visited was appended to my formal report to the Library.