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Sixty years of the RISM

In 2012, the RISM celebrated its sixtieth year as an international joint enterprise. Since 1952, the organisation has been under the patronage of the IMS (International Musicological Society) and the IAML (International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres). This anniversary was a good opportunity to consider not only the project as a whole but also the RISM's work in Poland in the past, present and future.

At our meeting in September 2011 at the Archiepiscopal Archive in Poznań, a very broad cross-section of the research landscape in Polish musicology was presented. It became clear how Polish musicology has dedicated itself to historical sources in Poland, including Polish and German sources that remained in Poland after the Second World War and Polish sources that remained in former Polish settlement areas and regions to the east of the country's present-day borders, because they represent Polish music history.

The scholarly treatment of historical music, placing it within a historical context and evaluating it in terms of music aesthetics, is always preceded by comprehensive, at times time-consuming, archive searches and study in Poland and other countries. In individual projects, once musicological research has uncovered historical material, cataloguing begins. In many cases, that work conforms to RISM standards. Works are ascribed to composers, titles and genres are assigned, and the source is physically described. Finally, the work's origins are clarified and, if possible, the historical figures who contributed to the work are named and their biographies researched. If cataloguing is limited to a single archive or library collection, this is summarised as well. However, a composer's oeuvre usually needs to be researched in multiple libraries and countries.

The individual RISM working groups in Europe and beyond supply a shared transnational electronic database, which all scholars can examine to gain an overview of the state of sources in their area of research. The RISM's projects, in particular the music manuscript project of series A/II, are far from complete and continue to grow. Individual music researchers may thus take the current state of the catalogue as a springboard to further 'detective work' and must consult the RISM online catalogue of series A/II at regular intervals, in addition to the volumes in series A/I and B for printed musical sources.

The RISM's work began in 1952 with the documentation of printed anthologies up to c.1800, under the leadership of François Lesure at the French National Library (Bibliothèque Nationale) in Paris. The results, volumes B/I and B/II, were published in the 1960s. Much more comprehensive was the project series A/I, *Individual Prints to 1800*. For this purpose, the RISM Zentralredaktion (central office) was founded in Kassel, Germany, headed first by Friedrich Riedel and then by Karlheinz Schlager. Many decades passed before the last index volume appeared in book form, in 2003, completing the series for the time being. Poland was continuously engaged in both projects to document music prints, as well as the project documenting musical manuscripts for series A/II. This was begun in the 1970s, under the direction of Helmut Rösing in Kassel, and was continued later by Joachim Schlichte and today by Klaus Keil in Frankfurt am Main.

For series A/I, Poland reported 3,226 titles from the following libraries: Książnica Cieszyńska (Cb), Biblioteka Gdańska PAN (GD), Biblioteka Książąt Czartoryskich w Krakowie (Kc), Muzeum im. E. Hutten-Czapskiego w Krakowie (Kcz), Biblioteka Jagiellońska w Krakowie (Kj), Biblioteka Kórnicka PAN (KÓ), Biblioteka Naukowa PAN w Krakowie (Kp), Biblioteka Śląska w Katowicach (KA), Biblioteka Główna Akademii Muzycznej w Katowicach (KAam), Biblioteka Katolickiego Uniwersytetu w Lublinie (Lk), Biblioteka i Archiwum Zamku w Łańcucie (ŁA), Biblioteka Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Nauk w Legnicy (LEtpn), Biblioteka Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego (ŁŻu), Biblioteka Raczyńskich w Poznaniu (Pr), Książnica Pomorska w Szczecinie (S), Wojewódzka Biblioteka Publiczna w Toruniu (Tm), Biblioteka Uniwersytecka w Toruniu (Tu), Biblioteka Narodowa w Warszawie (Wn), Biblioteka Uniwersytecka we Wrocławiu (WRu), Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich we Wrocławiu (WRzno) and Biblioteka Uniwersytecka w Warszawie (Wu). For series A/II, 23,660 titles have already been documented from these libraries: Zbiory Muzyczne Kościoła Farnego św. Anny w Barczewie (BA), Biblioteka Klasztoru OO. Paulinów na Jasnej Górze (CZ), Biblioteka Gdańska PAN (GD), Archiwum Państwowe w Gdańsku (GDap), Archiwum Prowincji OO. Dominikanów w Krakowie (Kd), Biblioteka Jagiellońska w Krakowie (Kj), Archiwum i Biblioteka Krakowskiej Kapituły Katedralnej (Kk), Opactwo SS. Benedyktynów w Krzeszowie (KRZ), Biblioteka i Archiwum Zamku w Łańcucie (ŁA), Archiwum i Biblioteka Opactwa Cystersów w Mogile (MO), Biblioteka Wydziału Teologicznego Uniwersytetu opolskiego (OPsm), Archiwum Archidiecezjalne w Poznaniu (Pa), Biblioteka Wyższego Seminarium Duchownego Diecezji Pelplińskiej (PE), Biblioteka Kościelna w Pilicy (PIk), Biblioteka Diecezjalna w Sandomierzu (SA), Biblioteka Narodowa w Warszawie (Wn), Archiwum Archidiecezjalne i Biblioteka Kapitulna, Wrocław (WRk), Biblioteka Uniwersytecka we Wrocławiu (WRu), Biblioteka, Muzeum i Archiwum Warszawskiego Towarzystwa Muzycznego (Wtm) and Biblioteka Uniwersytecka w Warszawie (Wu).

This can only be the beginning for Polish holdings. Few of the listed libraries are comprehensively indexed in the RISM database. In addition, the Polish RISM

Central Office at the Polish National Library (Biblioteka Narodowa) in Warsaw has catalogued and microfilmed holdings that have not yet been reported to the RISM Zentralredaktion.

In addition to working with the Polish RISM Central Office, direct collaboration is also possible between the RISM Zentralredaktion in Frankfurt and individual Polish libraries and musicologists. The cataloguing program Kallisto serves as an instrument for this. It is an online program, available free of charge, which connects everyone working on the RISM together on one server. Each RISM collaborator can view the entire inventory through the program. One's own data is protected by a password. The data is published in the free online RISM catalogue shortly after input at <http://www.opac.rism.info>.

In addition to the regular RISM working groups, dedicated private individuals from around the world – typically musicologists and musicians – use Kallisto to document in the RISM database what they are researching. In other individual projects, professors and their students are involved processing smaller, manageable archive collections. Such plans are also underway in Poland: small local groups have been founded in Gdańsk, Lublin, Poznań, Warsaw and Wrocław, working closely with the Polskie Centrum RISM and the RISM Zentralredaktion. The RISM Zentralredaktion (contact@rism.info) is happy to come to you or to the Polskie Centrum RISM (rism@bn.org.pl) and offer workshops on how to describe musical sources.

Future plans for the RISM Zentralredaktion involve work designed to give greater access to the completed projects of series A/I, B/I, and B/II, which have already appeared in print. Series A/I was digitised a few years ago and made into a database. It was released on CD-ROM at the end of 2011 by Bärenreiter. Planned for the near future is the digitisation of the entries from series B/I for printed collections up to c.1550. In the long run, we are hoping to be able to offer the entries for the music prints and manuscripts together in an RISM database. The entries from series A/I and B would then be loaded into a working database. From there, the data could be conveniently edited and expanded with Kallisto before being published together with series A/II. The chronological limits of this mammoth project no longer apply for the historical material. The music prints from the nineteenth century, to name one example, await documentation by the RISM. Only modern music prints, which have generally been documented by national libraries for many decades, are expected to remain outside of the scope of RISM projects. The RISM is looking forward to continuing its fruitful collaboration with its Polish colleagues.

Translated by Jennifer Ward

