**MWMLA’s Fifth Decade: 1987–96**

The Midwest Chapter of the Music Library Association (MWMLA) chronicled a time of incredibly hard work, many structural creations, and adaptations to facilitate organization for the rapidly-developing organization. Thus far there has been little said about musical and other artistic presentations, which were a part of almost every annual meeting. Neither has much been said about how the organization developed into a tight-knit social entity. Certain situations did link the fourth and fifth decades of our narrative, however. One of these was the nagging issue of the assets balance.

**The Chapter Treasury**

The January 1992 Newsletter summarizes the annual report of the treasurer by reviewing an ongoing difficulty—“the lack of timely payment of dues”—a prevalent problem for many years. The outcome of the discussion was the decision of the Executive Committee to remind persons who were remiss with dues in the January newsletter and to remove them from the roles if they had not paid up by March 1992. Newsletter Editor Rick Jones reiterated this reminder. Treasurer Anita Bealer indicated that 50% of the Chapter membership was in arrears with dues, thereby suffering from what she called “Lapsed Dues Syndrome.” She reminded readers that at $5.00 the Chapter dues were an unbeatable value.

In the September 1994 Newsletter, the Treasurer reported that only members who had paid dues were eligible to vote at Chapter business meetings and to receive publications. In October 1996 dues were raised to $8.00. That detail having been resolved, let’s now explore the years of enrichment that have long been central to the annual meetings of the MWMLA.

**Annual Midwest Chapter Meetings: Remarkable Diversity with Consistent Musical Distinction**

**University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (November 5–7, 1987)**
This meeting focused primarily on music marketing, the Tams-Witmark/Wisconsin Collection, preparing for the online catalog, The Collector, the Performer, and the Library, and included a performance of Japanese and Javanese music on Friday evening of the conference.

**University of Illinois, Urbana, IL (October 27–29 1988)**
This meeting was remarkable for many reasons, but certainly for its consideration of an array of music, including a variety of American music. The program included a lecture and demonstration of the Walter Kasura Collection of Russian Folk Music and the small ensemble of the University of Illinois Russian Folk Orchestra. No less authority than Bruno Nettl (University of Illinois) described the first USA–USSR Ethnomusicology Conference which had occurred June 25–July 2. Isabel Wong (University of Illinois) described music research in China, and Don Roberts (Northwestern University) described the September 1988 International Association of Music Librarians (IAML) conference in Tokyo. New music provided for this very special gathering of professional colleagues was offered by +Ensemble, with guest performer John Fonville.

The international offerings and information were followed at the same meeting by a symposium entitled “John Philip Sousa: Resources for Research on the Music, Life, and Times of the March King.” Chaired by Jean Geil (University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign), this presentation featured lectures by Phyllis Danner, (UIUC), George Foreman, (Centre College, Danville Kentucky), and other representatives of American collections of Sousa resources. Afterward, the hosts offered a tour of the Harding Band Building to view the collections of John Philip Sousa, Herbert L. Clarke, and of instruments. The grand finale occurred on Saturday night when the University of Illinois Symphonic Band, directed by James F. Keene, presented “A Tribute to John Philip Sousa,” a re-creation of a typical turn-of-the-century performance by the Sousa band in a park.

Several years later (1994) one finds a reprint of “His Fairest Flower: The Music for Vocal Soloist and Band in the John Philip Sousa Library at the University of Illinois.” This paper was originally read at the MLA Band Music Round Table meeting on March 4, 1994. Although not a part of any program at the Midwest Chapter, it was completely appropriate for inclusion in the Vol. 3, No. 2 newsletter, which has focused upon the tradition of Sousa, “the March King,” more than once.

**University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA (October 26–28, 1989)**

When the Midwest Chapter met at the University of Iowa, the meeting continued an international theme with a lecture and demonstration by the University of Iowa Scottish Highlanders. The next evening offered a choice of three musical events from which to select: an organ recital; The Power Failure, a Dresher/Eckert opera
which was preceded by a pre-performance discussion; or the University Choir and Kantorei, offering a program of choral music.

**Milwaukee, WI (October 25–27, 1990)**
Arts choices included a Slovenian choral recital; the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra; the Milwaukee Repertory Theater: The Early Girl; Pabst Theater: Branford Marsalis Jazz Quartet; and Skylight Comic Opera: Harriet, the Woman Called Moses.

**University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, MO (October 24–26, 1991)**
Facets of the evolution of musical life in the area were offered throughout the meeting. The opening session featured a presentation by Dr. John Leisenring (Conservatory of Music, UMKC), including selections from the Kansas City Jazz Film Collection. During the evening reception, famous jazz violinist Claude of UMKC performed, followed by the presentation, “Rags to Bebop: the Music of Kansas City,” by Chuck Haddix, Sound Archivist, UMKC.

**Washington University, St. Louis, MO (October 29–31, 1992)**
The meeting offered a tribute to the jazz tradition of the United States. Session one started with a wonderful lecture-demonstration by renowned ragtime pianist Trebor Tichenor, a faculty member at Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL). The reception was generously supported by Chapter friend, patron, and member Marty Rubin of Audio Buff. Therese Zoski, Fine Arts Librarian (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville), moderated Session 2, “Music in St. Louis.” Several presentations were included within the session: “Music at the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair” by Mary Hilton (Brentwood Public School System); “Who’s Going to Catalog All This ‘Stuff’?: The Krohn Collection of American Sheet Music” by George Keck (Ouachita Baptist University); and “Popular and Jazz Music Performance in St. Louis in the mid-1900s: An Oral History Perspective” by Therese Zoski. Late in the afternoon attendees had the option of touring the Gaylord Music Library (WUSTL) or the Missouri Historical Center Library. In the evening those who chose to participate enjoyed a memorable cruise on the Belle of St. Louis riverboat. On Saturday, at the conclusion of the meeting, there was an opportunity to tour the Scott Joplin House or the Missouri Historical Society Museum, where a special exhibit “Ragtime to Rock n’ Roll” was displayed. The local arrangements were coordinated by Co-Chairs Susanne Bell (WUSTL) and Therese Zoski; other Committee members were Nathan Eakin and Mark Scharff (WUSTL). Sixty-three paid registrants attended the St. Louis meeting.
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY (October 21–23, 1993)
Guests of the Adele G. Bailey Music Library were introduced to local bluegrass traditions. Session 1, “Kentucky Bluegrass: A Lecture-Demonstration” featured lecturer Ron Pen and the Tim Lake Duo, followed by a Bluegrass reception, sponsored in part by the generosity of Marty Rubin of Audio Buff. The next day included a memorable tour of Shakertown, and a lecture concert of Shaker music, followed by dinner at Shakertown. The evening presentation was “Music at Shakertown,” an offering including the music of John Jacob Niles presented by Ron Pen (School of Music, University of Kentucky), and “The Alfred Cortot Collection of Music at the University of Kentucky” by Lewis Bowling (Department of Music, University of Kentucky).

Bloomington, IL (October 27–29 1994)
This Chapter meeting focused upon the music around us, by programming music of academics, composers, and performers from the Midwest. The Thursday evening opener was billed “New Music Café,” and featured the compositions of four Bloomington-Normal composers, performed by faculty from the Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State University schools of music, with the composers present to introduce and discuss their works. The next night attendees were treated to an organ recital by the Midwest Chapter’s own Ann Marie Rigler, third-place winner in the 1992 American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition, playing on the 1984 Casavant in the Evelyn Chapel at Illinois Wesleyan. Following the program, there was a reception hosted by Sheean Library at IWU and sponsored by Marty Rubin of Audio Buff. As a part of the reception, musical artifacts from the collection of Dr. Minor Myers were on display.

Bowling Green, OH/Toledo, OH (November 2–4 1995)
Session 1 offered the magic and wonder of the thirteen student members of the Kasuma Sari Gamelan, conducted by David Harnish of the College of Musical Arts, Bowling Green State University (BGSU). Professor Harnish gave a description of the Javanese tradition of gamelan in several styles. This was followed by a reception sponsored (once again) by Marty Rubin of Audio Buff; attendees had the opportunity to examine and even try the beautiful instruments used at the concert.

During Session 2 the next day Alison Scott, Head of the Popular Culture Library at BGSU, explained the origins of the library for which she is responsible. In the late 1960s, a decision was made by the Bowling Green faculty that mass entertainment
should be an area of concentrated study at the university because it influenced mainstream culture. As a result, the popular culture program at Bowling Green spanned the period from the last quarter of the nineteenth century forward. Both Ms. Scott and Sound Recording Archivist Bill Schurk discussed the evolution of their units. Afterward, the attendees were offered a tour of the Popular Culture Library and the Sound Recordings Archives. In the afternoon Marilyn Shrude, Director of the Mid-American Center for Contemporary Music, and Suzanne Thierry, Assistant Director, presented Session 3. Once again, the Midwest Chapter displayed diverse and all-encompassing interest in varied musics.

**Midwest Chapter Meeting Collaborations**

**The Conference on Music Bibliography in Conjunction with Meetings of the Midwest Chapters of the American Musicological Society and the Music Library Association**

Held at Northwestern University October 9–12, 1986, this conference, framed by meetings of the Midwest Chapters of MLA and AMS, technically fell under the previous decade of our narrative. It opened on Thursday afternoon, in usual MWMLA tradition, with time reserved for Midwest Chapter MLA committee meetings, followed by two MLA sessions. Friday heralded the opening of the Music Bibliography Conference—Sessions I and II were held, plus the business luncheon of the MLA. Saturday morning opened with the keynote address, “Varieties and Uses of Music Bibliography,” presented by Donald Krummel, University of Illinois, Urbana, followed by Bibliography Sessions III, IV, V, and AMS Session I. Sunday morning was dedicated to AMS Session II. *MLA Newsletter* editor David “Jack” Knapp described the “landmark” Conference of Music Bibliography this way: “By the time of the final meeting, the Northwestern campus had seen the likes of a host of music librarians, scholars and historians from not only the Midwest, but the entire nation.”

In the Spring 1987 *Newsletter* editor Jack Knapp (Oberlin College) thanked the local arrangements committee (Kären Nagy of Stanford University and formerly of the Midwest Chapter, Richard Griscom and Shirlene Ward of Northwestern University) for a “remarkable display of virtuosity in organization and presentation.” The Chapter meeting and the Conference on Music Bibliography were attended by sixty individuals, and at that point, the Midwest Chapter could
boast a membership of 197. When all was said and done, the balance of the Chapter checking account was $2221.95 on January 13, 1987.

The 1987 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Chapter Music Library Association
November 5–7 Overlapping with the Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM), November 5–8

According to the fall 1987 Newsletter, Ann Arbor was “The Place to Be” the first weekend in November. He spoke of “reciprocal sharing of the same place at the same time” to include a joint reception and concert performance of Japanese and Javanese music, the opportunity to attend each other’s sessions, and for MLA members to share SEM’s papers, exhibits, and concerts. A joint session of the two organizations organized by Jennifer Post was entitled, “The Collector, the Performer, and The Library: Storing and Retrieving Field Work Data.” Program planning and local arrangements were handled by Peggy Daub (University of Michigan), Rick Jones (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee), and Beth Christensen (St. Olaf College).

MWMLA and Technology at the End of the Twentieth Century

Technological Exploration

Despite the collaboration with related organizations, the music librarians’ curiosity about the world of electronic technology never slows down. Examples from the 1987 meeting in Ann Arbor included:

- “Ann Arbor Databases,” moderated by Peggy Daub (University of Michigan), presented by Judy Tsou (Duke University)
- Professors Richard Crawford and Dale Monson (University of Michigan) offered the opportunity to tour the offices of Music Index.
- “Preparing for the Online Catalog,” from two points of view: that of educating the user, presented by Linda Fidler (Bowling Green State University), and that of Technical Services, presented by Richard LeSueur, (Ann Arbor Public Library)

In 1988 the Public Services Committee presented, “CD-ROM: What We Need to Know,” offered by Bob Acker (DePaul University), Bob Delvin (IWU), Linda Hartig (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Greg Fitzgerald (Western Michigan University), and Leslie Troutman (UIUC), Chair of the Public Service Committee.
In 1989 at Iowa City Leslie Troutman chaired a session entitled, “The PC in the Library,” featuring “The PC Users’ Survey,” Allie Goudy (Western Illinois University); “CD-ROM,” Robert Acker (DePaul University), and “CAI,” Linda Hartig (UW–Milwaukee). At this same meeting, there were two user group breakfasts: NOTIS (Northwestern Online Total Integrated System) and Illinois Online User Group. It was a rarity to encounter user groups convening at Chapter meetings at the time.

In the Fall 1989 issue of Newsletter, Allie Goudy (Western Illinois University) authored a most appropriate article, “Illinet Online: Illinois’ Statewide Online System,” in which she praised the system for giving excellent access to many materials, but criticized its ability to search for music with ease. Once again, in 1991 Illinet On-line Users Group and NOTIS Music User Group met.

The 1993 Chapter meeting in Lexington, entitled “The Net,” was moderated by Leslie Troutman (UIUC). The first part, “The More We Work Together—Intrastate Cooperation in MLA Midwest Chapter Music Libraries” included presentations from each of the state representatives, in which they summarized the efforts at intrastate cooperation in the respective states. These presentations were summarized in Vol. 3, No.1 of the Midwest Note-Book. Those who provided state summaries were the following:

- Illinois—H. Stephen Wright (Northern Illinois University)
- Indiana—Holly Borne (Butler University)
- Iowa—Joan Falconer (University of Iowa)
- Kentucky—Karen Little (University of Louisville)
- Michigan—Mary Black (Michigan State University)
- Minnesota—Laura K. Probst (University of Minnesota)
- Missouri—Laura Gayle Green (University of Missouri–Kansas City)
- Ohio—Marty Jenkins (Wright State University)
- Wisconsin—Mary Huismann (University of Wisconsin–Whitewater)

Leslie Troutman presented, “Music Sources on the Internet,” which included explanations of electronic communication, email, electronic conferences, electronic journals, USENET, remote access [telnet], document retrieval [File Transfer Protocol or FTP], and resource discovery approaches [Gopher and Wide Area Information Server or WAIS]. She talked about the need to
keep up with changes in electronic access of music sources and included a bibliography of recent Internet guides.

At the 1994 Chapter meeting, Robert Acker (DePaul University) addressed the group with “Music Interactive Multimedia: Keeping Current.”

H. Stephen Wright, Northern Illinois University presented, “Electronic Mail Security” during Session Four of the Fall 1995 Chapter meeting in Bowling Green, Ohio.

**Practical Considerations: A Call to Constitutional Review (three actually)**

An early 1988 call by Chair Katie Holum (University of Minnesota) led to the formation of an Ad Hoc Review Committee to study articles of the Constitution pertaining to Chapter committee structure and propose amendments deemed necessary. Committee members Katie Holum (University of Minnesota), Rick Jones (University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee), Jack Knapp (Oberlin College), and Chapter Chair Beth Christensen (St. Olaf College) reported to the group at the Fall 1988 meeting, recommending simplification of terms: “Chapter Chairperson” became “Chapter Chair,” “Chairperson-Elect” and “Vice-Chairperson” became “Chair-Elect,” “Past Chairperson” became “Past Chair,” and “Chairperson” became “Chair.” Other recommendations included changing the dues year to coincide with the annual business meeting and clarification about the relationship among chapter executive officers.

In January 1993 Chapter Chair Allie Goudy (Western Illinois University) appointed a By-Laws Committee including Beth Christensen (Chair), Leslie Troutman, Steve Wright, and Jack Knapp, charged to evaluate Chapter committee efficiency, specifically length of committee member appointment and continuity of committee chairs. The Committee was asked to report to the membership at the Fall 1993 Chapter meeting. The By-Laws Committee reported their recommendations to the membership at the Chapter meeting in Lexington. The membership present approved the Committee’s proposed regularization and definition of terms of appointment for committee chairs and members. A second By-Laws Committee proposal, also approved, permitted a majority vote of those present at the annual meeting to suffice to amend the Constitution and by-laws.
In fall 1996 *Midwest Note-Book* Vol. 5, No. 2, the By-Laws Committee, chaired by Beth Christensen, recommended that the membership change the status of the Secretary-Treasurer from chair of the Membership Committee to voting member. This modification in position description was suggested because as Secretary-Treasurer the individual would serve a two-year term, but other members of the committee would serve three years, thus contributing to greater service continuity. In addition, removing the Secretary-Treasurer from expected service as chair would lessen the pressure of an already busy role.

The following is the text submitted to the membership prior to the Fall 1996 business meeting: “The Membership Committee, comprising no fewer than three voting members appointed by the chapter chair, shall be responsible for attracting new members to the chapter. The Secretary/Treasurer shall serve as chair of the membership committee a voting member of the committee.”

The amended text was approved by the membership.

**MWMLA Communication Systems at the end of the Twentieth Century**

**Newsletter Changes**

In the Fall 1991 *Newsletter*, Editor Richard Jones asked readers to express their approval or disapproval of new type fonts, formats, and, in short, a new look. Rick indicated that he was searching for physical ways to express the excitement and activity of the organization. In an effort to meet that goal, in the future three issues (January, May, and September) would be released each year.

At that time there was an active search for an appropriate name to replace the sturdy but unimaginative title *Newsletter*. A list of suggestions, with mock-up mastheads, appeared in the January 1992 issue:
If this sounded familiar to some readers, it may be because, in the Spring 1982 Newsletter, there had been this notice:
It has been suggested that we give a name to our Chapter newsletter!! Other Chapters have come up with such catchy titles as *Breve Notes*, *Texas Quarter-Notes*, *Conventional Title* and *Notations*. So put your creativity to work, as there will be a contest to name our Newsletter at the fall Chapter meeting. Look for details and entry forms in the Summer and Fall (1982) Newsletters!

This piece appeared at the same time that the By-Laws Committee was reinstituted by Chair Rick Jones, under the excellent leadership of Gordon Rowley, with the goal of making proposals to enable the Chapter to function more efficiently and effectively. In addition, the several newly-formed Chapter Committees were working at a furious pace. Along with the other good work of our great MWMLA, the agenda was all-consuming. There were several Newsletter reminders of this “name the newsletter” contest, but for the eighties, it remained an important, but unfinished, project.

A survey in the January 1992 Newsletter indicated strong differences of opinion among the membership regarding three of the proposed names. Consequently, the Executive Committee chose a name from the middle—*Midwest Note-Book: Newsletter of the Midwest Chapter of the Music Library Association*. When Editor Rick Jones announced the title in Vol, 1, No. 1 (May 1992) of the newly-named journal he explained that “notebook” refers to a place where one keeps important information, “notes” represents music, and “book” is the generic term for all sorts of printed information. He summed it all up by saying, “I think the new name is just about perfect.”

Volume 1, Number 2 (September 1992) of the *Midwest Note-Book* announced that the National Serials Program had assigned the International Standard Serials Number ISSN 1063-5327 to *Midwest Note-Book*. Henceforth, this number would appear in the masthead and in the ownership statement of each issue. Further good news was the announcement that abstracts from *Midwest Note-Book* Vol. 1, No. 1 and from the last issue of *Newsletter* had appeared in *RILM Abstracts of Music Literature* and would continue to do so.

Editor Jones also reported that an inquiry was made about the possibility of obtaining second class Postal Service mailing status for the *Midwest Note-Book*. That, however, was a privilege reserved for “serials,” defined as being issued four or more times per year. (The *Note-Book* was published three times per year.) Third class postal mailing status was equally unavailable since it was reserved for mailings of a minimum of 200 items. (At the time the MWMLA was sending out
175 copies of the *Note-Book.*) Apparently, the ever-watchful Executive Board has always been alert to the needs of the organization.

**MLA-L AND MWMLA-L**

In the Fall 1991 *Newsletter*, after reflecting upon the impact of the newly-established MLA listserv, membership quickly rose to more than 425 subscribers, even though not all those interested had access.

About the same time, Rick Jones wrote a column, “Blow Your Own Horn.” Here are excerpts:

> I am continually reminded what a unique organization MLA is. Nowhere else, among all of our library and musical colleagues, does one find the interest, excitement and willingness to share freely knowledge, experience, expertise, and talents with one’s colleagues. A short glimpse at MLA-LIST will confirm that immediately. Someone need only ask: “Has anybody used…?” “How should I be interpreting…?” or “I need help in finding…” to receive all the assistance anyone could desire….The problem ….is not that music librarians won’t share, it is that there is not always enough information about what everyone is doing. Music librarians seem to be amazingly shy about letting other people know what they have to offer….The truth is that when someone finds out about your experiences, they will probably want to know more… Let us know about the projects you are doing: retrospective conversion, purchase of new equipment, serials holdings control, backlog control, automated finding lists, bibliographic instruction, collection maintenance and evaluation, and whatever! Let us know what works and what doesn’t work.

> If you let us know what projects you are involved in or have been involved with, it will be printed in the column. Nothing is too small, too locally oriented, too unimportant! Think of the times you have been helped by one of our colleagues and how much work they saved you. The old bibliographic instruction saw can be paraphrased in this regard: if you have done something recently, there are probably twenty other people with the same problem, question, or need—all of whom are hesitant to ask for help because it isn’t important enough.”

This piece bears testimony to the helpfulness among MLA and Midwest Chapter members, a quality mentioned often in interviews.
In the January 1997 issue of *Midwest Note-Book*, we were informed of the creation of the MWMLA-L listserv, for news and discussion relevant to the nine states comprising the Midwest Chapter MLA: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Subscription instructions were succinct but effective:

1. Send a message to: LISTSERV@IUBVM.UCS.INDIANA.EDU
2. containing the following text in the body of the message:
3. SUBSCRIBE MWMLA-L Yourfirstname Yourlastname
4. LISTSERV will then send you a message asking that you confirm your Subscription request by sending back an “ok” command.

In the same January 1997 issue of the *Midwest Note-Book*, it was announced that the World Wide Web site for the Chapter had now arrived: [http://www.uky.edu;OtherOrgs/MLAMidwest](http://www.uky.edu;OtherOrgs/MLAMidwest)

A Website sub-committee of the Public Services Committee was being formed to assist with development and maintenance. Jack Stewart was thanked for his work in the creation of the site.

*LISTSERV@IUBVM.UCS.INDIANA.EDU*

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*Midwest Note-Book Brings Good News from Music Library Association to the Midwest Chapter*

Vol. 1, No. 1 (May 1992)

1. **Ralph Papakhian** (Music Librarian, Indiana University) received an extremely high honor from MLA when he was named the recipient of the First Special Achievement Award, given to recognize members who have made a special contribution to the organization and to the profession through very specific activities. Ralph completed his term as Executive Secretary to the MLA in April 1992. Among the many roles he had served were: member of the Board of Directors, Fiscal Officer, Investment Committee and Bibliographic Control Committee, and both co-owner and co-founder of MLA-L. When presenting the award, Don Roberts indicated that perhaps Ralph’s greatest contribution was co-founding the MLA-L. Professor Roberts continued by citing the importance of the creation of the Listserv of the Board of Directors and indicated that he had provided MLA-L
subscribers messages and files from sources not usually available to music libraries.

2. **Beth Christensen** (Music Librarian and Acting Library Director, St. Olaf Collge) was announced a new member of the MLA Board of Directors.

3. **Richard Griscom** (Head of the Dwight Anderson Music Library, University of Louisville) was named Executive Secretary of the MLA.

4. **Daniel Zager** (Conservatory Library, Oberlin College) was appointed editor of *Notes*.

*Midwest Note-Book* Vol. 2, No. 2 reported that the national MLA organization had granted a recent request to provide an exchange/visit program within the chapter. The intention with these grants was to assist librarians who have interests or questions best addressed by visiting another library within the Chapter. These grants encouraged the exchange of information, expertise, and experience over a period of time. The support was intended to cover some of the travel and related expenses. According to the minutes of the 1993 annual meeting, the amount of the grant was $1,000. Don Roberts, Past President of MLA, indicated that this funding proposal from the Midwest Chapter was the strongest one received by the MLA Board during the preceding year.

In the May 1994 *Midwest Note-Book* there was information about the distribution of grant money to three applicants for professional development projects.

During the Chapter meeting in Fall 1995, five participants in the Librarian Exchange Program (with reference to a sixth who could not attend) reported how they had benefitted from the award (*Note-Book* Vol. 4, No. 3). Mark Scharff (Washington University in St. Louis), served as moderator as each participant described how they had achieved specific goals during their very positive experiences:

1. **Holly Borne**, Butler University, described thirteen weekly three-hour sessions with Michael Fling, Head of Collection Development at the Indiana University Music Library, in 1994. Borne indicated that this opportunity bridged the gap between library school theory and actual practice.

2. **Lew Bowling**, University of Kentucky, described his study with Steve Sundell, University of Wisconsin–Madison, at the Wisconsin Music Archive
The purpose of the collaboration was to learn about sheet music management, with special emphasis on the structure of Madison’s online database, along with preservation techniques.

3. Judy MacLeod, Southern Illinois University–Carbondale, who had spent her career in technical services before being reassigned as a liaison to the Music Department, sought the award in order to spend time with public service staff at Northwestern University.

4. Allie Goudy, Western Illinois University, described her 1985 visit to St. Olaf College, where she worked with Music Librarian Beth Christensen on course-integrated bibliographic instruction and collection development. Later the same semester Beth visited Allie at WIU. Beth was fulfilling residency requirements in China to adopt a baby daughter and therefore was not able to report upon her experience at the Chapter meeting.

5. Laura Gayle Green, University of Missouri–Kansas City, collaborated with Leslie Troutman, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in April 1994. As a result of their time together, Laura Gayle became acquainted with the Internet, and how to incorporate information about new technologies into teaching music faculty and students.

Following these reports, there was some time allocated for discussion of the value of the Librarian Exchange Program, since it was no longer being funded by the national MLA organization. Based upon the presentations offered at the Chapter meeting and earlier discussion, there was little doubt that the opportunities provided by the Exchange had been immensely helpful to participants, and that the program should continue with funding from the Midwest Chapter every two or three years in order that other members have similar opportunities. It was proposed that the Midwest chapter keep the Exchange Program going. In the January 1997 Note-Book, Chapter Chair Steve Wright announced the availability of Midwest Chapter funds to support applicants to the Exchange Program. The guidelines for the awards were printed, along with an application form and a cash limit that would probably not exceed $300.00.

The minutes of the Music Library Association Board of Directors meeting on June 2-4, 1995 in Berkeley California reflect favorably on the librarian exchange, originally funded in 1993 by an MLA grant to chapters. In 1995, however, the Midwest Chapter grant request to MLA was for assistance with
the Oral History Project, as indicated by the Past Present Michael Ochs. The Oral History Project had been proposed as a means of obtaining material to be used in connection with the chapter’s upcoming 55th anniversary, an important project that could stand as a model for other chapters.

For more information about the creation and evolution of the Oral History project (still in existence as you read this history), please refer to the heading below, “A Meeting Unlike Any Other: Midwest Chapter celebrates fifty-five years at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, October 31–November 2, 1996.”

**A Look at some Chapter Committees—Cataloging**

At the 1987 meeting in Ann Arbor several cataloging presentations were a part of the program:

- Nyal Williams (Ball State University), “Productivity in the Cataloging of Scores and Recordings: Research in Progress”

During the 1992 Chapter meeting in St. Louis, Session 4, Mary Huismann (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater) and Lynn Gullickson (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Co-Chairs of the Cataloging Committee moderated “Cataloging Issues.” These presentations included:

- Shelley Rogers (Kent State University), “Authority Control in Music: Special Projects at Kent State University”
- Paul Cauthen (University of Cincinnati), “Vendor Processing for Authority Control: The University of Cincinnati’s Experience with Blackwell North America”
- Mark Scharff (Washington University in St. Louis), “Authority Control for Music: A Report from the NACO Front”
- Kim Lloyd (Illinois State University), “Authority Control System Approach Using ILLINET Online”

During the 1993 Chapter Meeting in Lexington these presentations were offered:

- Mark Scharff (Washington University in St. Louis), “Authority Control for Music: A Report from the NACO Front”
- Kim Lloyd (Illinois State University), “Authority Work in a Shared Data Base Environment”
During Session Four of the 1994 Chapter meeting in Bloomington/Normal, Illinois, the Cataloging and Public Services Committee presented a joint session. Entitled, “Two Hats on One Head: Split Positions and Music Librarians.” It consisted of the positives and negatives in cases where a job position requires service in two specific areas. Lew Bowling (University of Kentucky), and Mary Huismann (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater) moderated the session. Panel members, Linda Hartig (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Anna Sylvester, (University of Missouri-Kansas City), Bonna Boettcher, (Bowling Green State University), and Beth Christensen, (St. Olaf College), explored the subject.

During the 55th Anniversary meeting (1996) at Notre Dame University, a session was dedicated to cataloging. Mary Huismann (University of Wisconsin–Whitewater), moderated the session entitled, “From the Handwritten Card to AACR3: Cataloging Past and Present.” Grace Fitzgerald (University of Iowa), Ruth Inman (University of Illinois at Chicago), and Mark Scharff (Washington University in St. Louis) presented.

Chapter Committees—Preservation Reconfigured to Become TAPS

The new decade was initiated with expressions of fairly traditional concern about materials:

University of Missouri, Kansas City, October 24–26, 1991

“Preservation on a Shoestring,” moderated by Therese Zoski, Fine Arts Librarian, (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville). Presentations included:

- Jean Geil (Special Collections Coordinator, Music Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), “Preservation Planning and Decision Making”
- Suzanne Eggleston (Music Librarian, Bowling Green State University), “Throw Your Collection a Lifeline: Train Your Crew”
- Marilyn Carbonell (Assistant Director for Collection Development, University of Missouri–Kansas City), “A Case for Preservation on a Shoestring Budget”

In 1992, Peter Munstedt, Chair of the Preservation Committee, wrote an article for the Vol 1, No. 2 Midwest Note-Book, informing the readership that the Preservation Committee would contribute occasional articles about music library
preservation concerns. The Committee had conducted an informal poll of certain Midwestern music libraries relating to disasters within the past twenty years. Most physical destruction was a result of water damage, usually as a result of leaky roofs or burst pipes.

A short article entitled, “Preservation and Reclassification of Music Scores” by Ian Fairclough (Ball State University), Co-Chair of the Preservation Committee, appeared in Vol 1, No. 3 issue of Midwest Note-Book.

At the fall 1993 meeting of the Preservation Committee in Lexington, the committee confirmed the determination to communicate with members via articles in the Midwest Note-Book. It also expressed particular interest in water damage done to libraries as a result of recent flooding, and how the libraries are dealing with the difficulties. Earlier, a message had been sent out via email, asking for reports of damage caused by Midwestern floods. The only report which had been received is taken directly from Vol. 2, No. 2 of the September 1993 Midwest Note-Book, and printed below:

News of the Midwest Floods: A report from the University of Iowa

The University of Iowa Music Library has been closed since July 6. The Music Building is built on a low spot along the Iowa River and water has been lapping at the doorstep on and off since then. Music Library staff are camped out in small quarters at the Main Library; music faculty are relocated to another building. To date we are unable to perform basic services such as reserve or reference; if we continue to be “camped out” then we will arrange to pull necessary books so we can provide limited services when school starts Aug. 23. The condition of books in the Music Library seems OK; although the building is without air conditioning, a few dehumidifiers seem to be holding up (submitted by Mary Jones).

In 1994, at the meeting of the Preservation Committee in Bloomington Illinois, the discussion seems to have taken a turn toward directions in the future. The summary of the meeting (shown below) appeared in the January 1995 (Vol. 3, No. 3) issue of Midwest Note-Book:

Preservation Committee (Jean Geil, representing Therese Zoski Dickman, chair): Directions for the future were outlined which include education of patrons and staff in handling materials, signage, continuing the Preservation column in the newsletter, presenting information on digital preservation, and
exploring prospects for grants. This committee also needs new members. The question was raised as to whether this committee needs a renewed mission and whether it is serving the needs of the membership. Should there be interaction with the MLA (national preservation committee)?

In the May 1995 issue of the *Note-Book* there is yet another report, this time of the Midwest Chapter Executive Committee, in which the future of the Preservation Committee is touched upon:

MLA Midwest Chapter Executive Committee Meets in Atlanta: The Midwest Chapter Executive Committee (Leslie Troutman, Steve Wright, Linda Hartig, and Rick Jones) had a brief but productive meeting in Atlanta during the national MLA meeting. In addition to selecting the new editor of the *Midwest Note-Book*, we discussed the future of the Preservation Committee (watch for developments on this in the next newsletter...), future venues for our annual meetings, the success of the Midwest Chapter Librarian Exchange Program, membership issues, and the 1995 Bowling Green/Toledo program.

Then, this notice of discussion to take place at the Bowling Green/Toledo meeting was posted in the September 1995 *Note-Book*:

Technology … Archives … Preservation … Sound

Technological change, preservation of collections, archival control, issues surrounding recorded sound…all present daily challenges for the music librarian. How do we meet these challenges and to what extent does our own experience reflect that of our colleagues?

On Thursday afternoon, 2 November at our annual meeting, there will be a meeting to discuss these and related issues. This broad-ranging discussion will be led by former Preservation Committee member Karen Little from the University of Louisville. It is intended to be an open forum and will be used to gauge the level of interest in these topics among members of the Midwest Chapter. A potential outcome of this meeting might be a reorganization of the Preservation Committee or the creation of an entirely new committee devoted to one or more of these issues.

Please join us for what promises to be a lively discussion.*

Then, Chapter Chair H. Stephen Wright wrote this piece for the January 1996 (Vol. 3, No. 3) *Note-Book*:
The Preservation Committee is considering changing its name and broadening its scope. The new name would be Technology, Archives, Preservation, and Sound (TAPS).

We are presently considering “morphing” the now-dormant Preservation Committee into something entirely new. For many of us, “preservation” seems to suggest putting on rubber gloves and spraying Wei T’o on things; certainly that’s a worthy endeavor, but in this age of information it is only one effort of conserving the record of human knowledge. An enthusiastic group met in Toledo to consider forming a new committee with interest in technology, archives, preservation and sound (or TAPS, a most euphonious acronym). Although adding or changing a standing committee is a lengthy, bylaws intensive process, there is no reason why we cannot pursue this idea on an informal or ad-hoc basis, to see what happens. Let me know if you are interested, and watch this space for further developments.

Through the September 1996 issue (Vol. 5, No. 2) of the Midwest Note-Book “Preservation Committee” is listed among the Committees forming the Administrative Structure of the Midwest Chapter. Then, in January 1997 (Vol. 5, No. 2), “Preservation” disappears from the list of committees without a whimper, and in its place is listed the newborn “TAPS” with a committee report attached.

**Technology, Archives, Preservation, and Sound:**

Phyllis Danner (University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign) reported that the committee continues the discussion of its mission and objectives.

Also in the January 1997 Note-Book, committee reports from the October 1996 Chapter meeting are offered, including one last report from the then-defunct ad hoc Anniversary Steering Committee, and a report from the Public Services Committee, mentioning that there is consideration of creating a Web advisory committee. Nevertheless, the Preservation Committee had slipped into the foggy past, and transformed into a more meaningful, more encompassing committee for the organization.

It is truly mere coincidence, but interesting to note nonetheless, that the Friday morning session of the 1996 Chapter meeting at Notre Dame (the 55th-anniversary meeting) was dedicated to the University Libraries’ Preservation and Restoration Department (PDR). Music Librarian Richard Jones and Preservation Librarian Sonja Jordan led the session in the Reimers Germfree Laboratories. Types of
binding, reformatting, freeze-drying, paper repair, reconstruction, disc cleaning, sound preservation, and more were included in the presentation.

Chapter Committees—Publications

At the behest of the Publications Committee, a full-page advertisement appeared in the Fall 1993 edition of *Notes, the Quarterly Journal of the Music Library Association*, announcing the availability of current publications, “The Directory of Automation Projects in the MLA Midwest Chapter” and “A Directory of Music Collections in the Midwestern United States.”

In the September 1996 *Note-Book* (Vol. 5, No. 2), Chapter Chair Steve Wright proudly announced the release of the second edition of the chapter directory, *A Directory of Music Collections in the Midwestern United States*. Steve notes that the first Directory was “the most elaborate and detailed” ever published by an MLA Chapter. The new edition was created by the Chapter Publications Committee, Kim Lloyd Armstrong, Grace Fitzgerald, Laura Gayle Green, and Ruth Inman, who submitted material from their assigned areas to Steve, who in turn assembled the material and created an elaborate index of names and subjects. The first edition had been expensive to produce—$1300.00 for 500 copies. Because of the cost and the limited demand for the Directory, the second edition would be available in two options using the MLA Clearinghouse—an unbound version with generous margins was available via the Clearinghouse for $15.00 or an electronic version in ASCII format searched easily online or downloaded to the computer and viewed offline.

Chapter Committees—Public Services

The Public Services Committee sponsored Session IV of the Chapter meeting held in Kansas City, titled “Creating Effective Handouts for the Music Library.” The list of institutions and their responses were included in the newsletter. A short article entitled, “Ohio Music Libraries” by Jack Knapp (Oberlin Conservatory), appeared in Vol. 1, No. 3 issue of *Midwest Note-Book*. “Ohio Music Libraries” was previously known as the “Cleveland Area Music Task Force” (or CAMLS) and was formed in the 1970s as a specific subset of the Cleveland Area Metropolitan Library System. It had been given the specific task of creating two sets of holdings—the “Union List of Historical Sets, Collected Editions and Monuments of Music in CAMLS Libraries” and “A Union List of Selected Music Journals in CAMLS Libraries.”
A Meeting Unlike Any Other: Midwest Chapter to Celebrate Fifty-five Years at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, October 31–November 2 1996

Planning 1993—Preliminary organization

Preparation for this memorable and elaborate event was initiated years in advance. A steering committee, consisting of Jean Geil, chair, Bonna Boettcher, Marty Jenkins, Sue Stancu, and Steve Sundell, joined by Ad Hoc members Allie Wise Goudy, Linda Hartig, Richard Jones, and Leslie Troutman, was formed long ahead of the event to plan special activities highlighting more than half a century of the chapter’s existence. The first meeting of this steering committee occurred during the 1993 Chapter meeting in Kansas City and centered upon creating a definitive chronology of Chapter activities occurring since 1941. This required initiating bibliographic, oral history, and special concert projects. Jean Geil asked that she or any other member of the Celebration Committee be contacted with suggestions or ideas.

Planning 1994—Chronology established

In Bloomington/Normal, Illinois, at the 1994 Chapter meeting, it was announced that the long-standing dispute of the age of the Chapter had been resolved. It was declared definite that the first meeting had been held on December 29, 1941; therefore the 55th anniversary should be celebrated in 1996 at the University of Notre Dame. The Anniversary Committee hoped to “document the chapter’s achievement, present the diverse history of the chapter, and have a great time!”* Midwest Note-Book, Vol. 3, No. 3.*

Planning 1995—Research in preparation, the Note-Book speaks up

Prior to the anniversary celebration, several articles appeared in the *Note-Book,* which helped the readership prepare for the upcoming festivity. In Vol. 4, No. 1, (May 1995), Jean Geil compiled a list of Midwestern music libraries and collections, along with their founding dates. While this was not a complete list, it was a helpful tool. Then, in the fall 1995 issue of *Note-Book,* Jean clarified her earlier announcement by describing an oversight—there had been no mention of the Lawrence University Library. The Lawrence Conservatory dated from Lawrence University’s earliest days and had been collecting music materials from its beginning, prior to 1850. As a result, the Lawrence University music collection held the position of being the oldest in the Midwest Chapter area.

**Midwest Note-Book: MLA Grant Information**

Another announcement of interest appeared in the *Midwest Note-Book*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (Fall 1995), p.2:

> When the [MLA] call for funding proposals came this past spring, the Midwest Chapter Executive Committee decided that instead of asking yet again to have the Exchange Program funded, we would support a request for funding proposed by the ad hoc Anniversary Committee. I am pleased to report that funding was granted [see related story in the next paragraph]. Congratulations to Jean Geil and the rest of her committee.

The next page of the same September 1995 newsletter reported the grant of $580.00 from the MLA Board for the purpose of conducting an oral history project. It was the intention that some of the interviews conducted would be the basis for one or more programs presented at the upcoming 1996 Anniversary meeting. The target groups to be interviewed were past Chapter chairs, librarians who headed large Midwest music libraries, Chapter members who had held positions of prominence in the national MLA, and those who had been active in the Chapter during the 1940s and 1950s. The grant monies were to be used for cassette tapes, payment for transcription services, and miscellaneous expenses. Therese Zoski Dickman of Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville was to coordinate the project. This grant leads, as you will see in Part III, to a vastly expanded burst of Publication Committee activity in the years ahead.

**More About the Anniversary Steering Committee**

The ad hoc Anniversary Steering Committee met frequently prior to the 55th-anniversary meeting in the fall of 1996. There was an active effort to notify former members and retirees about the upcoming celebration, in the hope that they would
attend. Steve Sundell (University of Wisconsin–Madison), was responsible for event publicity, and he put great effort into gathering names and addresses of those who had been but were no longer part of the Midwest Chapter. Alli Goudy was responsible for gathering documents of the Chapter’s past—programs, photographs, and other material—to be used for conference display and later turned over to the MLA Archives. There were plans to include at least one historically-based program during the meeting and the MWMLA thanked the MLA warmly for the grant to enable the Chapter to work on the oral history project. Future plans for the Committee included placement of more historically-based articles in the Note-Book and the creation of a finding aid for Chapter materials residing in the MLA Archives. Jean Geil, (University Illinois–Urbana Champaign), served well as Chair of the Anniversary Committee, contributing a number of articles to the Midwest Note-Book relating to Chapter history and the upcoming celebration.

55th Anniversary Meeting, October 31–November 2, 1996

After years of preparation, the long-awaited Anniversary meeting arrived! The music marking the Midwest Homecoming was remarkable. Directed by Alexander Blachly, founder of New York’s Pomerium, the University of Notre Dame Chorale performed literature composed for chapel choirs of the Renaissance. At another time during the meeting Spatter Das (Ukrainian Dance Troupe) of South Bend, Indiana, performed Balkan folk dances and provided instruction to willing attendees.

The later Friday afternoon sessions were dedicated to celebration. Anniversary Committee Chair Jean Geil presented, “Midwest Music Librarianship: Concerns and Issues Encountered in the Archival Record,” and Therese Dickman, Coordinator of the Oral History Project, presented, “The Midwest Chapter’s Oral History Project.” She served as moderator for, “The Way It Was: A Panel Discussion.” The celebration continued with a reception and banquet. Following dinner, music was offered by the Midwest Chapter Woodwind Quintet and there was an opportunity to visit with a Two-Thousand-Year-Old-Librarian. Other sessions included a presentation by Notre Dame’s University Libraries Preservation and Restoration, a presentation on cataloging, and “Successful Bibliographic Programs in the Midwest.” The meeting ended with, “A Midwest Chapter Town Meeting.”
The January 1997 issue of *Midwest Note-Book* (Vol. 5, No. 3) summarized the anniversary meeting well. During the business meeting, Jean Geil paid tribute to the many who worked with her to produce such a successful event: Bonna Boettcher, Allie Goudy, Mary Jenkins, Sue Stancu, Steve Sundell, Linda Hartig, Rick Jones, Leslie Troutman, Steven Wright, Dena Epstein, Marion Korda, and Therese Dickman. In addition, Chapter Chair H. Stephen Wright acknowledged retired members Jack Chitwood, Dena Epstein, Marion Korda, Kurtz Meyers, Elizabeth Olmsted, Phyllis Schoonover in attendance.

**About the Wonderful People**

In Vol. 2, No. 3 (January 1994) of *Midwest Note-Book* we were privileged to receive, “Report: from a Retired Librarian” from Dena Epstein, University of Chicago (retired). She starts out this way:

> When I read the May 1993 issue of *Midwest Note-Book*, I realized how much the music library world had changed in the six short years since I retired. “The NACO Front,” shared databases, “BNA”—all these were unknown in my sheltered music library. I had been aware that such things were coming, but my offers to experiment with computer cataloging for recordings had all been politely tabled.

From there, Dena continues by giving us a colorful description of two invitations she did accept—one from the Tennessee Banjo Institute and the other from the Library of Congress. The first involved a non-stop banjo performance, opening with a program by Pete Seeger which included “Lonesome Valley,” and banjo duets—a Sousa march among them. There were tutorial classes, but also classes covering all sorts of banjo innovations. Dena was responsible for the descriptions of African-American Banjo Styles. Representatives from Japan, Russia, the Netherlands, and Germany, with a translator explaining Russia’s interest in the banjo, had been encouraged by a Russian tour of Seeger in the 1950s.

The Library of Congress invitation was of an entirely different nature since a system-wide guide to materials on African-American history and culture was in the works, and the Music Department had no one with time to survey the music holdings. Dena agreed to become involved in the project (with trepidation); at the end of the article she thanks the contributors and the Music Division staff and says this:
When I read the completed manuscript, I realized how musical material is housed in other divisions of the library—Prints and Photographs, Manuscripts, Rare Books, Microforms, etc. The published guide should be of great assistance to anyone interested in the field. Watch for *The African-American Mosaic*, possibly available in the fall of 1993.

It is clear that any group that has worked as hard as MWMLA will have many stories about its wonderful members.

Text by Lynne Weber with the assistance of the Publications Committee. Submitted November 11, 2022.
MWMLA’s Fifth Decade: 1987-96

Index of Individuals Mentioned (Alphabetically by Surname)

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Bealer, Anita
Bell, Susanne
Blachly, Alexander
Black, Mary
Boettcher, Bonna J.
Borne, Holly
Bowling, Lewis
Carbonell, Marilyn
Cauthen, Paul
Chitwood, Jack
Christensen, Beth
Crawford, Richard
Danner, Phyllis
Daub, Peggy
Delvin, Bob
Eakin, Nathan
Eggleston [Lovejoy], Suzanne
Epstein, Dena
Fairclough, Ian
Falconer, Joan (Jodi)
Fidler, Linda
Fitzgerald, Grace
Fitzgerald, Greg
Fonville, Jan
Foreman, George
Geil, Jean
Goudy, Allie [Wise]
Green, Laura Gayle
Griscom, Richard
Gullickson, Lynn
Haddix, Chuck
Harnash, David
Hartig, Linda
Hill, William G.
Hilton, Mary
Holum, Katie
Huismann, Mary
Inman, Ruth
Jenkins, Marty
Jones, Mary
Jones, Richard (Rick)
Kasuma, Sari
Kasura, Walter
Keck, George
Keene, James F.
Knapp, David “Jack”
Korda, Marion
Krummel, Donald
Lake, Tim
LaSueur, Richard
Little, Karen
Lloyd, Kim
MacLeod, Judy
Meyers, Kurtz
Munson, Dale
Munstedt, Peter
Myers, Minor
Nettl, Bruno
Ochs, Michael
Olmsted, Elizabeth (Betty)
Papakhian, [Arsen] Ralph
Pen, Ron
Post, Jennifer
Probst, Laura K. (Laurie)
Rigler, Ann Marie
Roberts, Don
Rogers, Shelley
Rowley, Gordon
Rubin, Marty
Scharff, Mark
Schrude, Marilyn
Schurk, Bill
Scott, Alison
Seeger, Pete
Sonja, Jordan
Stancu, Sue
Sundell, Steve
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Tsou, Judy
Williams, Nyal
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Index compiled by Kathleen Haefliger (October 17, 2021)