

1963: Record the Holdings of American Libraries for Inclusion in the International Inventory of Musical Sources

Until the 1960s, music had been neglected in national and international bibliographies. In 1963, CLR granted \$27,300 to the [Music Library Association](#) to record the holdings of American libraries for inclusion in the [International Inventory of Musical Sources](#), a bibliography and finding list of manuscripts and printed works that then extended to 1800. The inventory was compiled under a joint commission sponsored by the [International Musicological Society](#) and the [International Association of Music Libraries](#). As a result of this effort, records were also added to the National Union Catalog.

About 150 American institutions cooperated in preparing the bibliography by submitting records of their music holdings to the American secretariat of the Library of Congress, which processed the records and forwarded them to the central secretariats in Europe. As of June 30, 1963, some 30,000 cards, representing holdings in 155 libraries in the US, had been sent to Europe. Altogether, about 1,300 libraries in 25 nations participated in the project.

CLR had given earlier grants to both the Music Library Association (in 1959) and the International Association of Music Libraries (in 1961 and 1962) for planning and supporting work of the inventory

The description at right is taken from the 7th annual report of the Council on Library Resources, Inc., for the period ending June 30, 1963, pp. 17–18.

International Inventory of Musical Sources. Music, the published form of which has been largely the product of the engraver's rather than of the printer's art, has been neglected in the national and international bibliographies. Recently, a genuinely international effort has developed, under the joint auspices of the International Musicological Society and the International Association of Music Libraries, to supply the deficiency through the publication of an *International Inventory of Musical Sources*, through the eighteenth century, in some thirty volumes.

The Council this past year supplemented previous grants to aid the work of the *Inventory* with a second appropriation to further American participation in the project.⁶ Approximately 150 American institutions are cooperating in preparation of the bibliography by submitting records of their music holdings to the American secretariat at the Library of Congress, which processes the records and forwards them to the central secretariats in Paris and Kassel, West Germany. As of June 30, 1963, approximately 30,000 cards, representing holdings in one-hundred-and-fifty-five libraries in the United States, had been forwarded. A number of unique items are coming to light as a result of the checking of American collections. While the number will not be known until the *Inventory* is completed, the first published volume, which lists 17th and 18th century anthologies, disclosed approximately a score of unique works preserved in the United States. Altogether, about 1300 libraries in twenty-five nations are participating in the project.

⁶ V: 19; VI: 14-15.