

Mr. Edward Colby, President
Music Library Association
Knoll House
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

July 12, 1950

Dear Mr. Colby:

Such a heart warming letter was received by me from you! I had intended to answer it at once.

Until a few days ago I had hoped I would be able to see you at the meetings, but I find the press of things here is going to make that impossible. Our summer session is in full swing with a large number of students here for special study, three operas are being performed, Conferences are being held, and I have received a huge shipment of new music.

(MLA at
Cleveland)

Therefore, this letter brings greetings to the Music Library Association members and best wishes to you for the accomplishment of matters which are worth-while for the future of the organization.

I feel one of the most important projects for us and one which would benefit the largest number of libraries is the publication of Music Subject Headings. This project has been worked on for such a long time, L C has made such strides in establishing excellent subject headings on its cards, the L C Subject Headings for all subjects have begun to be published (this is not adequate for the Music Library since our subjects are merged with all others) and still we have no publication! There is a crying need for a separate list of Music Subject Headings.

For several years I have made my own authority cards for subject headings which appear on the L C proof sheets whether our Library possessed the music or not. This has been laborious and time-consuming. However, in lieu of a published list, this has been found to be most valuable. People, cataloging in those subject fields which have published Subject Headings, cannot fully understand that this lack of a published list for music causes a handicap.

Will you make the following an A-one point on your agenda, bring it to a definite vote, and if a list cannot be printed at once, a partial list of uncontroversial subject headings be mimeographed for purchase.

I move (in ~~the~~ ^{essence}) that L C Subject Headings for Music (those already appearing on the latest L C cards) be printed or mimeographed as the appropriation allows and that means for doing so be voted by the Music Library Association at the present session so that copies may be available for purchase in the near future.

Very sincerely yours,

Ellis Lounsbury
Music Librarian

Chairman, Midwest Chapter
Music Library Association