

# Foundations in music bibliography

Joye Volker, Librarian of the ANU Institute of the Arts, reviews a new book from Haworth

Richard D Green, who edited this book, is Associate Professor of Music History in the School of Music at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. The book consists of papers presented at a conference on music bibliography convened at Northwestern University in October 1986.

The compatibility of cataloguing practice with music materials, namely that of the rules as facilitated by MARC computer formats, is presumed through rigorous enforcement of high standards, for instance of authority control and subject access.

The buzz-word, standards, in hi-tech bibliography are standards of form, not of content, and value judgements are frequently wrong. To illustrate, Krummel exposes Oscar Sonneck at the Library of Congress as relegating most copyright deposits in music

to what was labelled the 'rejects', so depriving us of some early scores by Scott Joplin and much of the music by early women composers.

Music classification is described as in a decrepit state—the Dewey scheme is now a century old and never supported the value of separating scores and books, while the LC classification does not anticipate Stockhausen and Cage. The unfortunate evolution of library cataloguing practices which concentrate on operational practice rather than content neglect the reality required by music research. Krummel concludes that music bibliographers provide both the tools and objects for the interrelationships of scholarship, libraries and music.

In the six years since the conference, some of the information contained in these papers has inevitably changed. Twenty-two of

the original papers are printed including the keynote address on the varieties of music bibliography. There is a rich store of information, including a list of music bibliography core literature, an analysis (although dated) of music reference lacunae, a detailed supplement to Steven D Wescott's *A comprehensive bibliography of music for film and television* and discussions on cataloguing chant manuscripts, Italian music of the Renaissance and musical ephemera. The brief index to these papers at the end does little credit to the depth and variety of information.

Green, Richard D., Ed. *Foundations in music bibliography*. New York: Haworth Press, Inc., 1993. 398pp. US\$49.95 board. ISBN 1-56024-512-3. Also published as *Music references services quarterly, volume No 2, numbers 1/2/3/4 1993*. ■

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