

Grußworte zum 100jährigen Bestehen des Bach-Jahrbuchs

Some think that modern musicology began with the founding of the Bach-Gesellschaft in 1850; others with Forkel's Bach biography of 1802; others with Spitta's study of 1873–80; others with the Schmieder-*Verzeichnis* of 1950; others with Alfred Dürr's new and more scientific approach to chronology published in this very journal in 1957; others with Mendelssohn's performance of the St Matthew Passion in 1829; others with the Harnoncourt/Leonhardt project to record all the cantatas in 1971. That is to say that it is hard to talk of musicology and what it has done without evoking Johann Sebastian Bach. Bach bows, Bach trumpets, Bach chorales, Bach fugues, Bach chorale preludes, even Bach choirs: all these and many others are fixed concepts in the minds of the public and of students.

So it may be slightly less of an achievement that the *Bach-Jahrbuch* still flourishes after 100 years than if it had been a *Telemann-Jahrbuch*, a *Palestrina-Jahrbuch* or a *Josquin-Jahrbuch*. All the same, it has weathered all the horrors and changing currents of Germany and of the various Germanies over those hundred years. That cannot have been easy.

The IMS ought perhaps to have been able to salute the Neue Bachgesellschaft as a slightly younger sister. But the International Musical Society/Internationale Musik-Gesellschaft that began a few years earlier in 1899, publishing its *Sammelbände/Quarterly Magazine* also in Leipzig, capsized at the start of World War I. The society had to be re-founded in 1927 in Switzerland, as the Société Internationale de Musicologie/Internationale Gesellschaft für Musikwissenschaft/International Musicological Society, to which titles we later added Società Internazionale di Musicologia and Sociedad Internacional de Musicología, then deciding to cut our losses by generally calling it just IMS. Our journal *Acta Musicologica* (thank heavens that somebody thought of a Latin title that needed no clumsy translations) began with Breitkopf und Härtel – like our *Sammelbände* and the *Bach-Jahrbuch* – but had to move to Copenhagen and the firm of Levin & Munksgaard during the Hitler years: it came to its present publishers, Bärenreiter, exactly fifty years ago in 1954.

On behalf of the IMS, then, I take pleasure in congratulating our older sister who might have been a younger sister on a hundred years of continuous and highly distinguished publication of its *Bach-Jahrbuch*.

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