

Symphonic Music and Art Books in Mexico City (8/95)

Music:

"Serious" music in Mexico is, like its counterpart anywhere in the world, an extremely dispersed enterprise, dependent on a series of individuals, institutes, and government ministries. Much contemporary symphonic music is not available for purchase, in part because of the royalties obtaining to the composers and in part because music publishing is not well developed in Mexico (many scores remain in manuscript). However, there are three major sources which seem dependable.

Ediciones Mexicanas de Música, S.A. operates out of a tiny office at 18 Avenida Juárez. The full address is 206 in a 1920s vintage commercial arcade -- it's in the first block of Juárez, facing the Bellas Artes. Ediciones publishes scores and parts of music composed by some of Mexico's most distinguished composers, Rodolfo Haffter, Ramón Montes de Oca and Herbert Vázquez among them. For now, the two women who run the office prefer to receive payment up front and leave the packing to the purchaser. But I convinced them to ship my last purchases to Ithaca (or at least I think I have, the proof is in their arrival), and maybe increased orders will change their policy on prepayment as well. I should note that these publications remain quite reasonable, most in the \$10 range.

CENEDIM, the Centro Nacional de Investigación, Documentación e Información Música, a subdivision of the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, has moved from its office on Liverpool in the Colonia Juárez to the new INBA complex in Tlalpán (Centro Nacional de las Artes; Torre de Investigación 7 piso). Take the #2 Metro to General Anaya (the next-to-last stop on the line); leave on the Colonia Country Club (sic) exit which dumps you on Calzada Tlalpán; ask directions to the INBA campus (you're within 100 meters). CENEDIM is on the 7th floor of the Torre. Lourdes Rebollo is in charge of the publications section; I found Adriana Torres very helpful. CENEDIM has recently published a complete catalog of its publications (Centro Nacional de Investigación, Documentación e Información Musical "Carlos Chávez," Catálogo de Publicaciones/ Publications Catalogue 1994), which includes the well known periodical Heterofonía, a number of monographs, and a few scores, as well as recordings. Be advised that not everything in the catalog is available, despite no indications that this is the case.

SACM, Mayorazgo 129, Colonia Coyoacán, 00330 México; take the #3 Metro to the Coyoacán station on the Centro Bancomer side and ask directions. SACAM is the Mexican ASCAP and thus does not so much publish music as represent its composers. However, I found it a very useful stop. Manuel Enríquez, the director, is very knowledgeable and had large amounts of materials at his disposal for gift and exchanges.

There has also been a Mexican division of the international music publisher, Ricordi, but I have been unable to locate them on two separate trips and am beginning to wonder if they are in operation.

Art:

In anticipation of this trip Cornell's Fine Arts librarian gave me a list of thirteen art and

architecture books to buy, all published within the past two years. I thought it might be interesting to see how many were available in Mexico City bookstores and how long it would take me to locate them. To make a long story short, twelve were available, although not in one place, and it took me about three hours to find and purchase them. The last title, a dictionary of architectural terms (Glosario de términos técnicos arquitectónicos) published in at the Universidad de Michoacán, was not available in Mexico City or Morelia. A second edition is promised soon.

I began with the usual suspects, Porrúa on Madero, Librería Cristal on Morelos without success. However, I had good luck in the Librería Ganges (the one on Juárez near the Tower of the Americas), and at the INBA bookstore in the Palacio de Bellas Artes (to the right from the main entrance). And a single store, Librería Madero, Av. Madero 12, had the last six books on my list and likely had the others as well. This place is a real find. The proprietor, Enrique Fuentes, knows books, and for the fields of history, art, and anthropology his stock-- much of it out of sight, behind the counter-- is as good as I have ever seen in one place. I certainly intend to make this a regular stop in visits to come and hope to establish a regular correspondence with Sr. Fuentes.

I should add as an aside that Mexican books have recouped some of their value against the dollar. What I bought was mostly hard bound and illustrated, but averaged N\$200(\$65) per volume.

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