

Library sigla

Library sigla are convenient shorthand for citing unpublished manuscripts and their exact location. Musicologists use them frequently. Library sigla are based on a system of abbreviations. In order to understand or use this system you need to understand the abbreviations. A full list of the library sigla is published in the prefatory pages of every volume of *New Grove II*.

If you wish to cite or examine a manuscript you will need to know the library or archive where it is kept and its catalogue number. A series of letters and numbers tells you the exact location of that manuscript. Take, for example, the sigillum:

GB-Lbl Add. MS 40677

The first one or two upper-case letters tell you the country: *GB* means Great Britain. The next upper-case letter after the hyphen tells you the town or city the archive is in, so in this case the *L* means London. The next lower-case letters give the name of the library or archive: *bl* means the British Library. The rest of the entry is the name of the collection and/or the catalogue number in that library. Sigla for other libraries follow a similar pattern, as in:

F-Pn France, Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale

US-NYp USA, New York, Public Library

Museum exhibits and other archived objects

Each object exhibited or stored by a museum will be catalogued, and so will have a catalogue number. If you refer to such an object, you should give:

- its title (as described by the museum);
- the name of its maker, or 'anonymous';
- the place it is thought to have come from;
- the year it was made;
- the name of the museum or collection that houses it;
- the catalogue number.

For example:

Two-manual harpsichord. Anonymous. Probably Northern Netherlands. 1658. Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nuremberg. Inv.-Nr. MINE 84.