First-edition imprints

First-edition imprints of a work by Chopin are shown below.
The Collection’s scores for the work are described on the pages that follow.
To go directly to a description, click the score’s imprint in the Bookmarks panel on the left.

RONDO IN C MINOR
Opus 1

Warsaw: Brzezina (—) 1825
Paris: M. Schlesinger (1986) 1836
Leipzig: Hofmeister (1977) 1834; (2375) 1838
Berlin: A. Schlesinger (2019) 1835
London: Wessel (1423) 1836

Composed 1825
Brown 10
Chominski & Turlo 192
RONDO, Opus 1

Paris: M. Schlesinger (1886) [= 1836] 1-mS-1 M25.C54 R19

RONDO | Pour LE Piano | dédié à | Madame de Linde | PAR | F. CHOPIN |


FOOTLINE: pp. 2–13, ‘M.S. 1886.’. On p. 9 the plate number is “1989”.


STAMPS: successor, style Bra/A.

1. Date: first-edition inference (date code fe).
2. This is the two-hand edition. Chominski & Turlo (p. 188) refer to a four-hand edition published by M. Schlesinger, probably issued simultaneously.
RONDO | pour le | Pianoforte | dédié à | Madame de Linde, | composé | PAR | FRÉD. CHOPIN. |
Berlin, | chez Ad. Mt. Schlesinger, libraire et éditeur de musique. |

sub-caption: p. 2, ‘PIANO.’


1. Date: first-edition inference (date code fe).
2. This is the two-hand edition. The prices given by Chominski & Turlo (p. 188) are 14 gr. / 171/2 sgr. for the two-hand edition and 2½ Thlr. for the four-hand edition. Since 24 groschen and 30 silbergroschen were each equivalent to one thaler, both 14 gr. and its alternative 171/2 sgr. correspond to 7/12 thaler. The prices Chominski & Turlo cite for the two editions are therefore equivalent to 7/12 thaler (two hands) and 2½ thaler (four hands). These prices are slightly higher than what is shown in the above title page for 1-aS-1, namely ½ thaler for each edition.
3. Another discrepancy between 1-aS-1 and Chominski & Turlo’s description is in the page number of the last page of music. As indicated above, it is 13 for 1-aS-1, but it is 11 in Chominski & Turlo’s description. This, together with the price discrepancy, indicates that the two scores are different impressions, but I have no independent evidence of two impressions, except that the two-hand edition in the British Library (shelfmark h.471.y.(8.)) is identical to 1-aS-1, with price ½ thaler, and pagination 13.
RONDO, Opus 1

Leipzig: Hofmeister (1977) [= 1834]  

1-Ho-3  M211.C54 R76

RONDEAU | à quatre mains | pour le | Pianofopte | composé | par | FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN.


Sub-caption: p. 2, ‘RONDO.’


Stamps: dealer, Theune, Amsterdam.

1. Date: first-edition inference (date code fe).

2. This is Hofmeister’s four-hand edition (plate number 1977, Hob-179), probably arranged by the composer (Brown, p. 9; Chominski & Turlo, p. 188).

3. Using a newly available Hofmeister archive, Deaville (1999) compiled print-run data that provide insights into the reception of a selection of works by Liszt and by a few contemporaries including Chopin. (I am indebted to James Deaville for permission to quote these data.) For the four-hand edition of the Rondo Op. 1, the first print run was 100 copies, in July 1834. Through 1869 a total of 1,300 copies of this edition was printed, on average about 37 annually. For the two-hand edition (1-Ho-2) the first run was 100 copies, in May 1839. Through 1879 a total of 2,825 copies was printed, on average about 70 annually. Evidently the two-hand edition was in greater demand.

Leipzig: Hofmeister (2375) [= 1838] 1-Ho-2  M25.54 R202

Premier | RONDEAU | POUR LE | Piano-Forte | Composé et Dédié | à Mme de Linde |
PAR | FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN. | Œuv. 1. | « Propriété des Éditeurs. » Prix 12 Gr. |
Ce Rondeau est arrangé aussi p. Pffie. à 4 mains. | 2375


Sub-Caption: p. 2, ‘RONDO.’

Footline: pp. 2–11, ‘2375’.

Stamps: none.

Inscription: owner’s signature “Zofia Hryszkiewicz”.

1. Date: first-edition inference (date code fe).
The transcription of this title page is the same as that of 1-Ho-2, except here the price is “20 Ngr.” and instead of the plate number, the last line is “Pr. 20 Ngr.” (for the four-hand edition).


SUB-CAPTION: p. 2, ‘RONDO.’

FOOTLINE: pp. 2–11, ‘2375’.

STAMPS: none.

1. Date: currency inference (date code 1).
RONDO, Opus 1


N° [blank] OF | WESSEL & Co. COMPLETE COLLECTION | OF | FREDERIC CHOPIN | FOR THE | Piano Forte. | Solo & Duet | [Wessel number]


London, | WESSEL & C? Importers and Publishers of: FOREIGN MUSIC, |
(by special Appointment) to, H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent. | N° 67, Frith Street, Corner of Soho Square.


Caption Title: p. 2, ‘ADIEU à VARSOVIE. | RONDEAU Composé par FREDERIC CHOPIN. | Nouvelle Edition Corrigée.’.


Advt: p. [i], ‘MODERN PIANO-FORTE MUSIC. | PUBLISHED AT WESSEL & C° FOREIGN MUSIC WAREHOUSE N° 6 FRITH STREET SOHO SQUARE.’. The lists have no works by Chopin.

Stamps: none.

1. Date: based on the last work listed on the title page, Op. 42, published by Wessel in 1840. In 1839 the firm’s address changed from 6 Frith Street to 67 Frith Street (Table 5D). The former address is given in this score’s footline and advertisement, and the latter on the title page.

2. Wessel’s first edition (1836) was issued as the first in his series “L’Amateur Pianiste” (Chominski & Turlo, p. 446. Their title-page transcription on p. 188 is a composite from later sources.).