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.

ETUDES
Opus 25

Paris: M. Schlesinger (2427) 1837
Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel (5832) (5833) 1837
London: Wessel (1832) (1833) 1837

Composed 1835–37
Brown 78
Chominski & Turlo 26
*Etudes*, Opus 25

*Paris: M. Schlesinger (2427) [= 1837] 25-mS-1 M25.C54 E827*

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**Caption Title**: p. 1, ‘F. CHOPIN. op: 25 « 2me LIVRE D’ÉTUDES. « 1re ÉTUDE.’; p. 6, 2me ÉTUDE.’; and so on through p. 48, ‘12me ÉTUDE.’

**Footline**: pp. 1–53, ‘M.S. 2427.’

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**Stamps**: publisher, style mS/B.

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1. **Date**: first-edition inference (date code fe).
3. Chominski & Turlo’s (p. 89) transcription of the title has “2me Livre” instead of the above “Deuxième livre”.
**ETUDES, Opus 25**

**Paris:** H. Lemoine (2776) [ca 1842]  

25-hL-1  

M25.C54 E683

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**Caption Title:** p. 1, ‘F. CHOPIN. op: 25 « 2me LIVRE D’ÉTUDES. « 1re ÉTUDE.’; p. 6, 2me ÉTUDE.’; and so on through p. 48, ‘12me ÉTUDE.’.


**Plates:** The title-page impression is weak and in some places barely legible. However, the music-plate impressions are excellent. The plates are those of M. Schlesinger (see note 2 in 10-hL-1).

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**Stamps:** successor, style aL/À (A 617,999). See note 3.

**Bound With:** 10-hL-1 (plate number 2775).

**Binding:** contemporary, red quarter calf; on the backstrip: ‘CHOPIN | ÉTUDES | POUR | LE PIANO’.

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1. **Date:** based on the plate number (Devières & Lesure, p. 280); also see note 2 in 10-hL-1.

2. “In 1842 Lemoine bought the copyright to the Études Op. 10 and Op. 25 and to the Waltz Op. 18 from Maurice Schlesinger. He used the original plates in his impressions of these compositions and inserted his firm’s name and address on the title pages, also changing the publisher’s numbers of Op. 10 (HL 2775), Op. 25 (HL 2776), Op. 18 (HL 2777). The musical text is identical to Schlesinger’s version.” (Grabowski, 1954, p. 28). Note the similarity of the title-page transcriptions of 25-mS-1 and 25-hL-1.

3. This is a stamp of Achille Lemoine, son of Henry Lemoine, at ‘256 Rue S T. Honore’, address of the firm after the death of Henry in 1854 (Devières & Lesure, p. 278).
**Livres I (etudes 1–6)**


**caption title:** p. 3, ‘F. CHOPIN. Oeuv. 25. Liv. 1.’

**sub-caption:** p. 3, ‘1 | ETUDE.’; and so on through p. 26, ‘6 | ETUDE.’

**footline:** pp. 3–30, ‘5832.’

**imposition:** There is no imposed singleton in this score of Livre I, which has 15 leaves. The blank conjugate of the title leaf is not present; perhaps it was removed in binding. Hob-275 has this leaf.

**Livres II (etudes 7–12)**

The title page is identical to that of Livre I, except with “Liv. II”.


**caption title:** p. 3, ‘F. CHOPIN. Oeuv. 25. Liv. 2.’

**sub-caption:** p. 3, ‘7 | ETUDE.’; and so on through p. 24, ‘12 | ETUDE.’

**footline:** pp. 3–30, ‘5833.’

**imposition:** There is no imposed singleton in this score of Livre II, which has 15 leaves. The blank conjugate of the title leaf is not present; perhaps it was removed in binding. After p. 30, Hob-275 describes this leaf as "1 LS" (1 blank page); presumably this “1” should be 2.

**stamps:** publisher, style BH/D on each title page; dealer, Holtz, Moscow.

**bound with:** The two books of 25-BH-1 are bound separately.

**binding:** Livre I, library cloth.

2. This score corresponds to Hob-275.
Livre I (etudes 1–6)


caption title: p. 3, ’F. CHOPIN. Oeuv. 25. Liv. 1.’

sub-caption: p. 3, ’1° | ETUDE.’; and so on through p. 26, ’6° | ETUDE.’

footline: pp. 3–30, ’5832.’

Livre II (etudes 7–12)


14 leaves (335 x 254 mm): pp. 3–30 engr music.

caption title: p. 3, ’F. CHOPIN. Oeuv. 25. Liv. 2.’

sub-caption: p. 3, ’7° | ETUDE.’; and so on through p. 24, ’12° | ETUDE.’

footline: pp. 3–30, ’5833.’

STAMPS (LIV. I): publisher, style BH/F; dealer, J. Eck & Lefebvre, Amsterdam.

BOUND WITH: The two books of 25-BH-3 are bound together.

1. Date: currency inference (date code c1).

2. As in 25-BH-1, the title leaf’s blank conjugate [31, 32] is not present in either Liv. I or Liv. II; perhaps it was removed in binding. Hoboken does not have this issue, with Schlesinger as the Paris publisher.
** Lâm Bộ, Opus 25**

**Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel (5832) (5833) [after 1845]**

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**Livre I** (etudes 1–6)


**caption title**: p. 3, ‘F. Chopin, Op. 25, Heft 1.’. 
**sub-caption**: p. 3, ‘ÉTUDE I.’; and so on, through p. 26, ‘ÉTUDE VI.’. 

**Livre II** (etudes 7–12)

The title page is identical to that of Livre I (including “Liv. I.” instead of Liv. II.).

**sub-caption**: p. 3, ‘ÉTUDE VII.’; and so on, through p. 24, ‘ÉTUDE XII’. 

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**STAMPS**: publisher, style BH/J on each title page.

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1. **Date**: based on the name of the Paris publisher (Table 5A).

2. Livre I corresponds to Hob-276, except that in the latter the composer’s name is capitalized in the caption title. Livre II corresponds to Hob-278, except that the latter is lithographed.

3. This score differs from 25-BH-1 in various ways, including music layout and performance marks, as well as title-page artwork. For example, etude 6 is laid out in five pages in BH-1 and in six pages in BH-2, while etude 12 is seven pages in BH-1 and in eight pages in BH-2. (Christophe Grabowski kindly pointed out to me some of these differences; personal communication 24 April 2001.)
ETUDES, Opus 25


Book 1 (etudes 1–6)


sub-caption: p. 2, ‘N° 13.’; and so on through p. 20, ‘N° 18.’


advt: p. [i], ‘PAGE A. | CATALOGUE OF WESSEL AND CO.’S CHOICE PUBLICATIONS OF MODERN PIANO-FORTE MUSIC.’. The lists include Chopin works through op. 27 (entry 84 in the series “L’Amateur Pianiste”).

Book 2 (etudes 7–12)

The title page is identical to that of Book 1, except with handwritten “25” instead of “24” (first line).


caption title: p. 1, ‘DOUZE ETUDES, OP. 25, de FREDERIC CHOPIN. | (Fourth Book of Studies.).’


advt: p. [28], ‘PAGE S. | WESSEL & CO.S EDITIONS OF THE PIANOFORTE WORKS (SOLO) BY CHOPIN, | HELLER, SCHULHOFF, KULLAK, AND AGUILAR.’. The list for Chopin consists of the 71 entries in Wessels's collection, and in addition, the Marche Funèbre extracted from Op. 35, which was issued by Wessel in 1849 (Brown, p. 119).

imposition: Leaf 8 is a singleton.

stamps: publisher, style W/D on each title page.

bound with: The two books are in the same enclosure.

1. Date: Wessel inference (date code W1).
ETUDES, Opus 25

Milan: Lucca (1721) (1722) [ca 1837]

25-Lu-1 M22.C54 P93

Cover


ADVT: cover p. [4], ‘ELENCO DELLA OPERA | DI CHOPIN, DÖHLER, DE MEYER, LISZT, PRUDENT, THALBERG E WILMERS. | PUBLICATE DA FRANC. LUCCA’: The Chopin list has Opp. 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30.

Cahier 1 (etudes 1–6)

14 leaves (340 x 255 mm): pp. 1–28 engr music.


sub-caption: p. 1, ’1er | ETUDE.’; and so on through p. 24, ’6eme | ETUDE.’

footline: pp. 1–28, ’1721’.

plates: An “h” (engraver’s mark?) appears in the lower right-hand corner of each plate.

Cahier 2 (etudes 7–12)

14 leaves (340 x 255 mm): pp. 1–28 engr music.


sub-caption: p. 1, ’7eme | ETUDE.’; and so on through p. 22, ’12eme | ETUDE’.

footline: pp. 1–28, ’1722’.

plates: An “a” (engraver’s mark?) appears in the lower right-hand corner of each plate.

stamps: dealer, Ferrara, Nice (not blind) on cover.

bound with: 10-Lu-1 and 28-Ca-1.

binding: contemporary (?) quarter calf.

1. Date: According to Belotti (p. 430), Lucca published Op. 28 (listed in the advertisement) in 1839.

2. The title page is printed only on the cover, but has a blank space for entering the Cahier number. This indicates that what is here used as a cover for both books was designed to be used as an outer bifolium for each book. The paper stock of the cover is slightly heavier than that of the internal leaves.

3. Both the layout and the style of the title-page strongly resemble those of the Breitkopf edition, 25-BH-1, which has two title pages.

4. The two books of Etudes Op. 25 are the 14th and 15th of Lucca’s publications of Chopin’s works (Chominski & Turlo, p. 272).