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.

POLONAISES IN A MAJOR AND C MINOR
Opus 40

Paris: Troupenas (977) 1840
Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel (6331) 1840
London: Wessel (3557) 1840

Composed 1838–39
Brown 120
Chominski & Turlo 152


Caption title: p. 2, 'DEUX POLONAISES pour le Piano par CHOPIN. "POLONAISE N° 1.'; p. 6, 'POLONAISE N° 2.'


Stamps: publisher, style T/A.

1. Date: first-edition inference (date code fe).
Deux | POLONOISES | POUR LE PIANO | dédiées | à son ami | Jules Fontana | PAR |
FRÉD. CHOPIN. | Oeuvre. 40. « Propriété des Editeurs. » Pr. 16 Gr. | Leipzig, chez Breitkopf & Härtel. |


footline: pp. 3–11, ‘6331’.

stamps: publisher, style BH/D; owner’s embossed “CZISCHEK” in upper right-hand corner of first two leaves.

inscriptions: handwritten owner’s page numbers “137–148”.

1. Date: first-edition inference, based on the absence of contrary evidence.
2. There is a faint indication of a plate mark on the verso of the title leaf, but this may be the result of contact with the sharply defined plate mark at the foot of the first page of music.
3. Including the present score, the Collection has five B&H scores of Op. 40. One is the first edition (40-BH-3) and one is a four-hand arrangement (40-BH-2), while the other three are re-issues of the first edition. The chronology of these re-issues can be stated as 1, 3, 4, where for example, “1” means 40-BH-1. Both 3 and 4 are lithographed, while 1 is engraved. The title pages of all three are identical to that of the first edition except for price changes, 1 and 3 being priced in Neugroschen and 4 in both Neugroschen and Marks. All are printed with the same plates as those of the first edition, except that 3 and 4 are lithographic transfers.

Breitkopf re-issues are common. In the case of Op. 40, the first one (40-BH-1) is the result of the change of currency in 1840 from Groschen to Neugroschen. The only unusual feature of this score is the fact that it is engraved rather than lithographed, as was more typical. In view of the first edition’s publication date of 1840, the year the currency changed, this may indicate that 40-BH-1 is the second state of the first impression, rather than a separate issue. Another possibility is that, since the price change involved only the title page, and since it is likely that few, if any, copies of the first impression had yet been sold, the outer bifolio of the remaining stock was replaced by a cancel.


Footline: pp. 3–11, ’6331’.

Stamps: none.

Inscriptions: handwritten “6” on recto of every leaf.

Binding: library cloth.

1. Date: currency inference (date code ct) and name of Paris publisher (Table 5A); also see note 2.
2. The price of the first issue is 16 Gr. (Chominski & Turleo, p. 168).
3. This score corresponds to Hob-355.


sub-caption: p. 2, ‘N° 1. | POLONOISE.’; p. 3, the same; p. 8, system 3, ‘N° 2. | POLONOISE.’; p. 9, the same.

headline: versos, ‘SECONDO.’; rectos, ‘PRIMO.’.

footline: pp. 2–15, ’6587’.

stamps: none.

1. Date: based on the plate number (Table 5C).
**POLONAISES, Opus 40**

*Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel (6331) [after 1841]*  
40-BH-3  
M32.C54 P8102

The transcription of this title page is the same as that of 40-BH-1.


**Caption Title**: p. 3, ‘ F. Chopin, Op. 40.’

**Sub-Caption**: p. 3, ‘POLONAISE. | N° 1.’; p. 7, ‘POLONAISE. | N° 2.’

**Footline**: pp. 3–11, ‘6331’.

**Stamps**: publisher, styles BH/I and BH/J.

1. **Date**: currency inference (date code c1); also see note 2.
2. This lithographed score is presumably later than the engraved 40-BH-1.
The transcription of this title page is the same as that of 40-BH-5, except here the price is “20 Ngr.-Mk. 2.–.”.


Footline: pp. 3–11, ‘6331’.

Stamps: publisher, styles BH/I.

1. Date: currency inference (date code c2).
Polonaises, Opus 40

Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel (6587) [after 1873] 40-BH-6 M211.C54 S34

Oeuvres de Frédéric Chopin | arrangées | pour le Piano à quatre mains |
[lis of 46 selected works beginning with Op. and ending with Op. , including]
Propriété des Editeurs. « » Enregistré aux Archives de l’Union. | LEIPZIG, BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL.


sub-captions: p. 2–3, 'N° 1. 1 POLONOISE.'; pp. 8–9, system 3, 'N° 2. 1 POLONOISE.'.

headline: pp, 2–15, versos, 'SECONDO.'; rectos, 'PRIMO.'.

footline: pp. 2–15, '6587'.

advt: p. [16], 'PIANOFORTE-WERKE ZU VIER HÄNDEN | im Verlage von BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL in Leipzig.'.

Chopin works are listed under 'Chopin, Fr., Oeuvres de Piano,

stamps: publisher, style BH/I.

1. Date: currency inference (date code c3).

2. The date of this score is based on the currency shown in the collective title page. However, since the music is engraved, it is possible that the plates are those of the first edition (1841),


Caption title: p. 1, ‘“LES FAVORITES” DEUX POLONOISES, COMPOSÉES PAR FREDERIC CHOPIN, OP. 40. | DÉDIÉES À SON AMI JULES FONTANA.’.

Sub-caption: p. 1, ‘N° 1.’; p. 6, ‘N° 2.’


Advt: p. [14], ‘[clipped to] A CATALOGUE OF EASY PIANO-FORTE MUSIC, WALTZES, & QUADRILLES, PUBLISHED BY WESSEL & Co.’. There are no Chopin works in the lists.

Stamps: publisher, style W/D.

1. Date: Wessel inference (date code W1).