

POLAND - THE MASTERPIECES OF FRYDERYK CHOPIN

Fryderyk Chopin, like Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and Verdi, is considered to be a composer of lasting and universal value. One of the most important features of his music is originality and novelty.

Apart from Europe, he also made a name for himself in Asia (especially in Japan and Korea) and in both Americas. At the Fryderyk Chopin International Competition held in Warsaw, Chopin's compositions were performed by musicians from every continent. Even though Fryderyk Chopin was one of the fathers of Romanticism, his music had its individual character and his achievements outclassed those of his predecessors and followers.

Chopin lived outside Poland for 19 years and his musical output has been dispersed in different collections. That is why the largest part of his production which has been conserved by the Fryderyk Chopin Society and the National Library is of special importance. Chopin's musical output is of such great importance that UNESCO decided to declare the year 1999 Fryderyk Chopin International Year during which the whole world will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of Chopin's birth.

PART A - ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

1. Identity and Location

- 1.1. The masterpieces of Fryderyk Chopin
- 1.2. The Republic of Poland
- 1.3. The Warsaw Province
- 1.4-5. 00-368 Warsaw, Okólnik 1

The Fryderyk Chopin Society

00-207 Warsaw, Pl.Krasińskich 3/5

The National Library, the Special Collections Department

2. Legal Information

- 2.1. The Fryderyk Chopin Society
- 2.2. The Banking Foundation for Culture, (a letter, inventory no. D/219), the Museum in Łowicz (dedications, inventory no.: D/71 and D/72), the Ministry of Culture (a letter, inventory no. D/214)
- 2.3.
 - (a) Public property
 - (b) The Cultural Heritage law including changes of 15 February 1962 and the Museums Law of 21 November 1996, the Libraries Law of 9 April 1968.
 - * Ordinance No. 17/87 of 25 June, 1987 of the Director General of the National Library on gathering, storing, systematising, compiling and making available documents under special protection.
 - Ordinance No. 15/95 of 7 June 1995 of the Director General on protecting library materials of special value stored in the Special Materials Department.
 - (c) Rules and regulations of 10 March 1997.
 - (d) The Fryderyk Chopin Society

2.4. The Minister of Culture

3. Identification

3.1. The works of Fryderyk Chopin comprise:

autographies (86 items), authorised copies of his works (11 items), letters written to 25 addressees (78 items), notes and corrections written on works published by Maurice Schlesinger in Paris, gathered together in four volumes, which belonged to Ludwika Jędrzejewiczowa and Napoleon Orda (4 items), notes written in pocket notebooks from the years 1834, 1848, and 1849 (3 items), drafts of Chopin's own piano method (2 items), congratulations and congratulatory scrolls (4 items) and a copybook for practising handwriting from the period when he was a pupil of one of Warsaw's secondary schools as well as signatures on documents and books (4 items).

3.2. Inventory numbers: M/1 - M/13, to M/2741

Mus: 93, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233.

3.3. Microfilms, negatives, positives, facsimiles, photographs and photocopies as well as videotapes.

Visual documentation: all items have been microfilmed (the Microfilm Department) and photocopied (The Musical Collections Department); some have been published in facsimile form.

3.4. The Chopin Museum of the Fryderyk Chopin Society in Warsaw (known until 1950 as the Fryderyk Chopin Institute) began collecting Chopin's autographies in 1935. It was at that time that the first 30-page set of his writings was bought from Ludwika Ciechomska, the great grand daughter of the composer's sister Ludwika Jędrzejewska. The autography included a trio in G minor opus 8 (inventory number M/1), and together with other 127 original writings, it constitutes a priceless collection.

Until 1939 the collections of the Fryderyk Chopin Institute contained thirteen autographies.

Thanks to the efforts of the members of the Fryderyk Chopin Institute, in 1938 Polish collections acquired 23 autographies and 25 copies of originals including 11 copies of Chopin's works authorised by the composer. They were obtained from the collection of Breitkopf and Härtel from Leipzig, but as the Fryderyk Chopin Institute had no appropriate storeroom the Ministry of Religion and Public Enlightenment handed the documents over to the National Library where they have been conserved until today.

Some autographies and authorised copies were sent by the composer to Breitkopf and Härtel who, in 1935, offered the autographies to the Polish government. One year later, the Chopin Institute took the first steps to buy the autographies and eventually purchased this valuable collection. During the Second World War, the collection was moved to Canada. It was returned to the National Library in Poland on 3 February, 1959.

The original of the Preludes opus 28 (the National Library, call number Mus. 93), most probably from the collection of Aleksander Poliński, was discovered by Józef M. Chomiński in the summer of 1939 in the Library of the State Conservatory of Music in Warsaw. In the same year it was lent to the Musical Department of the National Library led by Julian Pulikowski to be photographed. The document remained in the National Library due to the outbreak of the Second World War. In 1943 it was incorporated into the exhibits of the Chopin Exhibition in Cracow. It was later taken by the Nazis and hidden in Silesia to be subsequently found in the Kłodzka region in 1947. It was later moved to the

Library of the University of Wrocław and returned to the Musical Department of the National Library in Warsaw.

After the Second World War the Fryderyk Chopin Institute once again began gathering autographies written by Chopin, not an easy task since he had lived outside Poland for almost 19 years, nor that of gathering the originals of Chopin's works in Poland. However, between 1953 and 1967 the Fryderyk Chopin Society received as gifts, borrowed or bought a total number of 40 items.

The Fryderyk Chopin Society received from abroad 21 autographies written by Chopin.

The biggest collection of Chopin's original writings (17 items in all) was bequeathed to the Fryderyk Chopin Society by Arthur Rubinstein in 1977. Rubinstein collected the documents for many years and the largest part of his collection was bought in auctions organised by important antique dealers.

Forty-six autographies of Fryderyk Chopin were bought with the Museum's own financial resources in the years from 1955 to 1992 in auctions in Marburg, Berlin, Paris and London, or straight from the owners or antiquarians in Paris, Basil, Geneva, Liestal, London, and Tutzing near Munich.

3.5. **Adamczyk-Schmid Bożena, Wróblewska-Straus Hanna** „Podróż romantyczna Fryderyka Chopina i George Sand na Majorkę. Dokumenty i pamiątki z kolekcji Anne-Marie Boutroux de Ferra [...] uzupełnione obiektami pochodzącymi ze zbiorów Towarzystwa im. Fryderyk Chopina i Biblioteki Narodowej w Warszawie (katalog wystawy w jęz.: polskim, hiszpańskim i angielskim) (“The romantic trip of Fryderyk Chopin and George Sand to Majorca”. Documents and mementoes from the collection of Anne-Marie Boutroux de Ferra [...] supplemented by materials from the collections of the Fryderyk Chopin Society and the National Library in Warsaw (an exhibition catalogue written in Polish, Spanish and English), Warsaw 1990;

Burger Ernst, „Fryderyk Chopin. Eine Lebenschronik in Bildern und Dokumenten” München 1990.

Chomiński Józef M., Turło Teresa D. „Katalog dzieł Fryderyka Chopina” (A Catalogue of the Works of Frederick Chopin), Cracow 1990;

Eigeldinger Jean-Jacques „Chopin vu par ses élèves”, 3rd edition, Baccioni, Boudry-Neuchâtel 1988;

Kobylńska Krystyna „Chopin w kraju” (Chopin in Poland), Cracow 1955;

Kobylńska Krystyna „Deux lettres inconnues de Frédéric Chopin et de Maurice Sand à George Sand”, „Revue de Musicologie” No. 128 (1964)

Kobylńska Krystyna „Katalog wystawy w 150. rocznicę urodzin Fryderyka Chopina/Catalogue de l'exposition 150 anniversaire de la naissance de Frédéric Chopin (A catalogue of the exhibition held to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Chopin's birthday), Warsaw 1960;

Chopin) „Muzyka” (Music), 1958 no. 1 - 2 (8 - 9);

Kobylńska Krystyna „Rękopisy utworów Chopina. Katalog. Manuscripts of Chopin's Works Catalogue), Vol. I and II, Cracow 1977;

Kobylńska Krystyna „Thematisch - Bibliographisches Werkverzeichnis von....”, Munich 1979;

Sydow Bronislas E. „Correspondance de Frédéric Chopin” recueillie, révisée, annotée et traduite par [...] en collaboration avec Suzanne et Denis Chainaye, Vol. I - III, Paris 1981;

Tomaszewski Mieczysław „Fryderyk Chopin. Diariusz par image” (Fryderyk Chopin, A diary par image), Text and design [...] iconography and commentary by Bożena Weber, Cracow 1990;

Wróblewska-Straus Hanna „Autografy Chopina niezmierną rzadkością” (Chopin’s autographies as a rarity). Fryderyk Chopin’s correspondence in the collections of the Fryderyk Chopin Society, Rocznik Chopinowski (Chopin Annual) 22/23 (1996/1997);

Wróblewska-Straus Hanna „Autografy Chopina ze zbiorów Muzeum TiFC w Warszawie. Supplement do katalogu” (Chopin’s autographies from the collections of the Chopin Museum of the Fryderyk Chopin Society in Warsaw). A supplement to the catalogue, Rocznik Chopinowski (Chopin Annual) 14 (1982);

Wróblewska-Straus Hanna „Bliskie naszemu sercu pamiątki chopinowskie” (Chopin’s mementos close to our hearts) (An exhibition catalogue), Warsaw 1980;

Wróblewska-Straus Hanna „Katalog zabytków Muzeum (Towarzystwa im. Fryderyka Chopina) Korespondencja F.Chopina, ludzi jego epoki i ludzi związanych z tradycją chopinowską” (A catalogue with exhibits from the Museum of the Fryderyk Chopin Society). Correspondence of F.Chopin, of his contemporaries and of people related to Chopin’s output) Warsaw 1969, the Fryderyk Chopin Society;

Wróblewska-Straus Hanna „Kolekcje Chopinowskie (Chopin Collections) (An exhibition catalogue), Warsaw 1985;

Wróblewska-Straus Hanna „La meilleure place est la Pologne, la patrie de Chopin”, “La Pologne Polonia”, 1983 no.3/335;

Wróblewska-Straus Hanna, Lewkowicz Maria “Katalog Zbiorów Muzeum” (Towarzystwa im. Fryderyka Chopina) (A catalogue of the holdings of the Museum of the Fryderyk Chopin Society), Manuscripts, prints, and photographs” Warsaw 1971;

3.6.Wanda Bogdany, Podleśna 48 m 23, 01-673 Warsaw, phone:

(022) 34-68-39;

Jean-Jacques Eigeldinger, Le Grand Verger, CH 2015 Areuse;

Jan Ekier, Waszyngtona 22 m 1, 03-910 Warsaw, phone: (022)

617-65-39;

Krystyna Kobylańska, Górnośląska 16 m 38, 00-432 Warsaw;

Maria Prokopowicz, Filtrowa 26 m 1, 02-057 Warsaw, phone: (022) 25-48-36;

Mieczysław Tomaszewski, Siedleckiego 1 m 5, 31-538 Cracow.

4. Management Plan

The Fryderyk Chopin Society

- fireproof strongboxes which are located in a separate room where proper temperature and humidity can be maintained;
- accessibility
 - 1) for specialists

2) for exhibitions for a period of time precisely defined by Experts¹

- At the request of the Fryderyk Chopin Society, the Laboratory of the National Museum in Warsaw carries out regular analyses of the records to define precisely the number of micro-organisms present on the records. The Warsaw Provincial Office for Hygiene is to carry out a chemical analysis to detect possible concentrations of sulphur dioxide; nitrogen or formaldehyde in the storeroom where the most precious documents are kept. The condition of strongboxes and the storeroom is good. The most valuable documents are seldom made available. The collections can be made available after Hanna Wróblewska-Straus has issued a special permission. As the Fryderyk Chopin Society has no staff trained in preserving archival materials, external experts and others from the National Library in Warsaw are commissioned.

The National Library

Special collections of the National Library including the collection of autographies and authorised copies of F. Chopin's works are stored in the Treasury of the National Library. Preservation activities concerning the documents are carried out by the Preservation Department of the National Library. Materials selected by the Manager of the Musical Collections Department and the Manager of the Preservation Department of the National Library in co-operation with the Treasury Commission are subject to preservation activities and/or are bound once every five years on average.

5. Assessment against the Selection Criteria

Fryderyk Chopin is one of the leading representatives of Romanticism which was of great importance in the 19th century. His influence can still be seen in his magnificent works and Romanticism still plays an important part in modern culture (Criterion No. 2). Chopin's originality, uniqueness and popularity all over the world places him among the world's most prominent musicians (Criterion No. 4). Romanticism is characterised in music by the use of a large number of instruments, rich sound, the rejection of rigid rules, as well as by the presence of lyrical, folk and poetic elements. In his compositions Chopin combined elements of Polish culture with universal ones in a very sophisticated way, which appeals to people from different continents and cultural backgrounds (Criterion No. 6).

Chopin's works are unique, as they are quite different from compositions of other Romantic composers (Supplementary criterion No. 2).

The collection of Fryderyk Chopin's musical works in two Warsaw institutions is unique and authentic and cannot be found anywhere else.

6. Consultation

6.1.

(a) The Fryderyk Chopin Society

The National Library, the Special Collections Department

(b) The Polish Memory of the World Committee of UNESCO

7. Nominator

7.1.1 The Fryderyk Chopin Society

7.3.1 Agnieszka Wróblewska-Straus

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7.4.1 Okólnik 1, 00-368 Warsaw, phone: (022) 826-59-35, fax (022) 827-95-99
7.1.2 The National Library, Warsaw
7.3.2 Włodzimierz Pięła, phone: (022) 608-23-92
7.4.2 The National Library
The Special Collections Department
Manager Maciej Dąbrowski MA
Place Krasińskich 3/5
00-207 Warsaw
phone: 635-55-67, 831-32-41 ext. 18
fax: 635-44-98

PART B - SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

8. Assessment of Risk

8.1. The archival materials are stored in fireproof strongboxes see point 4.
The condition of the Ostrogskich Palace is good.

Annual budget for 1996:

- property protection 45,351 PLN
- maintenance of security systems 2,356 PLN
- preservation of records 19,002 PLN

Financial resources needed for refurbishing the Ostrogskich Palace are provided by the Central Commune, the Mayor of Warsaw and the Warsaw Provincial Governor.

In the National Library the documents are stored in the Treasury.

9. Preservation Assessment

9.1.

- The documents are in good condition
- Before the Second World War and during the German occupation the records were stored in a bank (it is difficult to establish precise dates). After the end of the war, they were stored in the Fryderyk Chopin Institute in Zgoda St. and since 1955 they have been stored in the Fryderyk Chopin Society in the Ostrogskich Palace.
- Legal acts concerning the protection of the cultural heritage during peace and war time:
 - a) Ordinance No. 578/96 of 28th March, 1996 of the Mayor of Warsaw, Chief of the Civil Defence for the Central Commune;
 - b) Ordinance No. 23 of the Minister of Culture of 25th April, 1995 on the protection of the cultural heritage in the event of war.
- The Fryderyk Chopin Society - Hanna Wróblewska-Straus
- The National Library - Włodzimierz Pięła