CONTRIBUTION TO THE RECENSIO OF CHOPIN'S PRÉLUDE OP. 45.

This study represents the obvious sequel to the one devoted to *Polonaise* Op. 44, already posted on the site *www.audacter.it*. With that study, collating and analysing texts, the related correspondence, and some biographical facts, we have demonstrated that the opinion, according to which the Austrian first edition would have greater authority than the Parisian first edition, is false. We have also found out and proved that the Austrian edition of the *Polonaise* Op. 44 was heavily manipulated by a pianist-proof-reader: an exceptional and unique event indeed, because during composer's life no editor dared take so many liberties. Therefore, since the first German edition of the *Prélude* Op. 45 was brought out by the same Viennese publisher of the *Polonaise* Op. 44, *i.e.* Mechetti, it is necessary to investigate whether the collation detects even here traces of a so much unscrupulous and irresponsible interference.

Currently the most pretentious Chopin's editions are three, a kind of trinity: 1. the Polish national edition by Jan Ekier; 2. Peters' edition, *The Complete Chopin*; 3. Henle edition, edited again—after the musicologist Ewald Zimmermann—by Norbert Müllemann.

Even if both Peters' and Henle editions are not yet complete, the *Prélude* Op. 45 has long been available in all three editions:

- 1. Fryderyk Chopin, *Preludia*, ed. by Jan Ekier, Paweł Kamiński, Warszawa (Wydanie Narodowe) 2000, pp. 62÷66, *Source Commentary*, pp. 14s.;
- 2. The Complete Chopin, A New Critical Edition, Préludes, edited by Jean-Jacques Eigeldinger, London (Peters Edition Ltd.) 2003, pp. 55÷60, 68;
- 3. Frédéric Chopin, *Préludes*, hg. von Norbert Müllemann, Fingersatz von Hermann Keller, München (G. Henle Verlag) 2007, pp. 48÷51, 70s.

Musicologists and pianists, facing the deployment of such authoritative competence, should feel reassured and trust without fear to one of these three editions. Actually, we shall see during our study that Peters' edition does not answer any pianists' purpose, and all three of them give a wrong text. Quite objectively, however, we have to add that the Polish edition, aside from an incorrectly set *recensio*, is the best of them.

THE SOURCES.

Unfortunately—as in the case of *Polonaise* Op. 44—no autograph of the *Prélude* Op. 45 is known. There are only the first editions:

- FI French first edition, published in an album offered as a supplement to subscribers to the Revue et Gazette musicale de Paris (cf. Chr. Grabowski & J. Rink, Annotated Catalogue of Chopin's First Editions, Cambridge [Cambridge University Press] 2010, p. 350). The publication date is attested by the Revue et Gazette Musicale de Paris of December 12, 1841: «Today we publish for the Subscribers, Esq., Keepsake des pianistes, including etc.»;
- F2 French second separate edition, marked "M.S. 3518". The publication date is uncertain. The *ACCFE* cautiously speaks of «early 1842» (cf. ibid. p. 351). The antigraph of this edition was not the autograph, but a corrected copy of F1.²

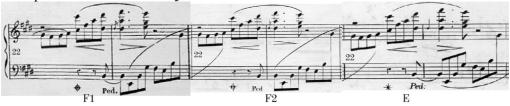
Ex. gr., discrepancies in the pedalling of bars 23, 49, 75, 282, and 308 cannot possibly come from the pen of Chopin (cf. Fr L. Viero, For a correct recensio of Chopin's Polonaise Op. 44, June 2013 [www.audacter.it] p. 17).

In the RGM of January 16, 1842, p. 24, our Prélude is reported among the novelties at the price of 6 fr., but in the issue of March 27—on the page devoted to Musique nouvelle pour le Piano, publiée par Maurice Schlesinger the price is 4.50 fr. Then, in the issue of June 5, 1842, p. 240, among the Publicatisns [sic!] de Maurice Schlesinger the price is back to 6 fr. This leads us to suspect that, in waiting for the separate edition (F2) at 6 fr., Schlesinger had decided to print, as extract from the Keepsake, additional copies of the Prélude at a lower price (4.50 fr.). In

- A Austrian first edition (cf. ibid. p. 352);
- E English first edition (cf. ibid. p. 355).

The quoted editors rely on **A**, which is, in their opinion, the most authoritative source. Ekier writes: «EE [...] based on FE1» (cf. op.cit. p. 14). Eigeldinger explains: «E was clearly derived from F' and reproduces its errors» (cf. op.cit. p. 68, a false statement indeed, since E gives the most correct text). Müllemann agrees with his colleagues: «Engraving based on F1» (cf. op.cit. p. 70).

It is an important philological assertion, which should be demonstrated, but from their pulpits those three editors expect readers take them at their word! First, then, we must show that E depends on F1. We know that Moscheles read the proofs of Opp. 44÷49 for Wessel,⁴ and, as for Op. 45, he did that with great care. There are three places that allow you to determine such a dependence. Bars 22÷23:



It will be noted that, apart from the non-correction of the 3rd and 4th quaver (we read G-A instead of A-B), the engraver of F_2 omits the tie between the two B (l.h.): therefore, E copies F_1 (on the other hand, the English engraver forgets the two small flags of the grace note). Bar 64:



this case, the publication date of F2 would be placed late in the spring. This is, however, a mere hypothesis. — About the bizarre use of some pseudo-philological terms, cf. Fr. L. Viero. art. cit., notes 4, 5, 12, and 60.

³ Müllemann adds that E appeared in January 1842, whereas the 20th January 1842 is just the date in the Stationers' Hall registers. On the problem of the dating of the first English editions, and of the *Prélude* Op. 45 in particular, cf. ACCFE pp. liii et seq.

Cf. Franco L. Viero, art. cit., p. 3s. Since August 18, 2013 (or shortly before) on the site CFEO the Analyses of printed sources and the process of publication of Opp. 44 and 45 are available again. The one related to Op. 44 presents a few corrections and repeats the same general statements and a hopeless hypothesis without any evidence. The other, related to Op. 45, which concerns us here, is proposed as it was with the same errors than before. In the Analysis of Op. 44 the editor states that «Maurice Schlesinger presented Wessel with newly printed scores of Op. 44 as well as Opp. 45-49», and not long after he adds: «Somewhat greater uncertainty surrounds the corrections carried out by Ignaz Moscheles, which appear to have made their way into both the English first edition and the definitive version of French editions of Opp. 44 and 46-49 (see Jeffrey Kallberg, Chopin at the Boundaries, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University Press, 1996, pp. 210-214)», thus excluding the Op. 45, obviously without saying why. In the Analysis of Op. 45 the editor even denies that «the English corrector» of Op. 45 was Moscheles, indeed he could also be a woman: «[...] he or she [...]», contradicting Moscheles himself (cf. our article cited above, p. 4), and again without any evidence. About the errors, the editor states that the corrector («he or she...») «did not find it necessary to add a sharp to the upper note in LH chord 39 or to replace the incorrect b-natural' in RH chord 43 from F, with c-natural'.» But, aside from the absurdity—we have already stressed that many times—of such nonsensical descriptions (is it so difficult to use music writing?), a few lines earlier, the 43rd chord is listed as 45th, thus generating a great deal of confusion in the reader. Still more surprising is what follows: «These faults are not critical, however, in that without these accidentals the passage does not so much offend the ear as lack a certain harmonic logic.»! In other words, the editor admits that his ear does not get the trouble those wrong notes produce. Such are the academic chopinologists: they do many minute remarks, but do not know how to deal with them philologically (nor to hear, apparently, with a suitable ear), and they draw completely dissociated noncommittal statements, applying a rather schizophrenic than philological technique. And Chopin is still succumbing...

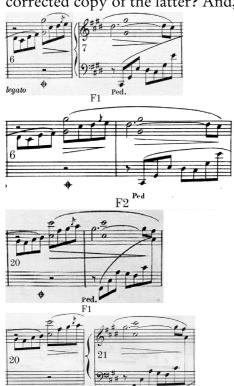
The \sharp before C (l.h.) is only in F2, because obviously the English engraver read F1. In F2 also you note the lack of the pedal's release. The different arrangement of slurs in F2 compared to F1 is due to the different layout: in fact, while in F1 the text is compressed into 3 pages, in F2 it is distributed over 7 (over 5 in E), so that the engraver of F2, like the English engraver, chose to sign the slurs on the side more handy for him. However, the arrangement of slurs in F1 most likely follows the autograph. This suggests that F2 has been prepared on the basis of a corrected (not by the composer) copy of F1. Bar 87:



As in bar 64, the \sharp before D (r.h.) is only in F2. You can note in E the addition of a dot to the fourth last quaver (r.h.), in confirmation of the scrupulousness with which Moscheles corrected the proofs.

Once proven the dependence of E on F1, we may leave out of the *recensio*— as in the case the *Polonaise* op. 44—the English first edition.

No less important is to set which relation links F_2 to F_1 . In fact, since F_2 is an *ex novo* issue, that is newly engraved, we have to check if the collation allows us to determine, first, which was the antigraph of F_2 : the manuscript of Chopin, which had served for F_1 , or a corrected copy of the latter? And, then, who made the corrections? Let us see bars $6 \div 7$:



you can see two *diminuendo* hairpins. Probably, the engraver of F1, having to begin a new line, split the original single hairpin. This is suggested by the engraver of F2, who, copying bars 20÷21, did the same, *i.e.*, he split the single hairpin of F1.

In similar bars $68 \div 69$ the hairpin has been skipped. Why? Because of carelessness or an incomplete manuscript? It is a question that may remain unanswered. That the autograph sent to Vienna $(A2^*)$, twin of the one given to Schlesinger $(A1^*)$, had a single hairpin, it is suggested by bar 7 and, especially, bars $68 \div 69$ of **A**.



The example offered by bars 6÷7 is enough to show that the antigraph of F2 was a corrected exemplar of F1. To exclude that Chopin prepared that exemplar of F1 for the second separate edition, it is worth following.

⁵ Even the editor of the *Publication history* published on the website *www.cfeo.co.uk* thinks the same: «E was based on the French first edition, a filiation revealed by comparing the two sources».

First of all, if Chopin had corrected a copy of F1, it is very likely that he would not renounce his habits; maybe he would have neglected more than an accidental, nevertheless here and there he would have make some light changes. He would certainly have restored the single hairpin across bars 6÷7 (v. supra). Instead, F2, compared with F1, does not witness any variant, and it contains almost only additional accidentals, some of which wrong. See bar 43:



instead of changing the wrong C-flat into C-natural, the right C-natural is corrected into C-flat despite the clear C-natural in the lower staff! This is not a correction of a pianist (B-natural and C-flat correspond to the same key), but rather of an engraver who got confused.

The engraver, then, forgets the tie between the two B of bars $22 \div 23$ (v. supra), and in bar 64 he omits the release of the pedal.

Still, the "correction" of bar 48 is even more serious, since it erases any trace of the authentic reading:



the last C in the right hand is not vertically aligned with G-natural, because obviously the engraver read in the autograph a sixteenth note, not a quaver. Since there is no trace of an erasure of a second small flag or of a second dot, and being bar 48 the echo of bar 40 (v. infra), we must refer to carelessness. Well, the engraver of F_2 not only added a natural to second F,

but also, having noticed the irregular and unjustified alignment, decided to vertically align C and G-natural.

All this proves that Chopin had nothing to do with the preparation of F2.

So F2, too, should be excluded from *recensio*, except that we have a copy of F2, which is one of the so called *partitions Jędrzejewich*, with corrections made by the composer in his own hand. Hence, all the corrections printed in F2, having been seen by Chopin, may converge in the text, without the editor is obliged to mark their integration.⁷

In any case, the text may be determined only on the basis of F1 and A.

THE PRÉLUDE OP. 45 AND THE TROUPENAS AFFAIR.

We have already noted that the sale to Schlesinger of this *Prélude* was a breach of verbal contract between Masset, partner of Troupenas, and Chopin. We also inferred that Chopin, writing to Fontana: «[...] you will now have the Troupenas affair hanging over your head» (August 9÷10, 1841), had already reached some agreement with Schlesinger. Besides, we noted that this *Prélude* seemed to jump out of nothing, just available, on October 1, 1841.

The Revue et Gazette Musicale de Paris, published by Maurice Schlesinger, can help us to determine with less uncertainty the background of the break with Troupenas and, consequently, to prove the existence of a definite plan of action. Let us see, therefore, the first pages of the aforementioned Revue containing the announcement of the Keepsake, for which Chopin had composed the Prélude.⁹

⁶ The drawing of the bass clef and other details seem to rule out the possibility of the same engraver.

⁷ Someone might rightly wonder why Chopin corrected some errors and not others. We venture a guess: the person, who was playing at the piano our *Prélude*—a student or whoever he was does not matter—was bewildered right in those places.

⁸ See the whole question in Franco L. Viero, art.cit., pp. 7÷10, 12.

⁹ We reproduce here the first pages of *RGM* dated August 22, 1841 (left), October 31 (centre) and December 5 (right). Under each we have enlarged, easier to read, the respective announcement's text.



Le 15 novembre :

KEEPSAKE DES PIANISTES.

Morceaux nouveaux et inédits

Par MM. Chopin, Doehler , Henselt , Kalkbrenner ,
Liszt , Osborne , Rosenhain , E. Wolff.

Avec fac-simile de leur écriture.



Le 15 novembre :

KEEPSAKE DES PIANISTES.

Moreaux nouveaux et inédits

Par MM. Chopin, Dochler, J. Fontana, Stéphen Heller,
Henselt, Kalkbrenner, Liszt, Mendelsohn, A. Méreaux,
Moschelès, Osborne, Rosenhain, E. Wolff.

Et une Volte de Rossini en fac-simile de son écriture.



Le 12 décembre:

KEEPSAKE DES PIANISTES.

Morceaux nouveaux et inédits

Par M.M. Chopin, Dochler, J. Fontana, Stéphen Heller,
Henselt, Kalkbrenner, Mendelsohn, A. Méreaux,
Moscheles, Osborne, Rosenhain, E. Wolff.

Et une Fuste de Ressiria fine-stallité de son écriture.

Well, the first announcement of the *Keepsake* was published on August 22, 1841: «The Subscribers, Esq., will receive free [...] on November 15: *KEEPSAKE DES PIANISTES*. New and unpublished works by Chopin, Doehler, Henselt, Kalkbrenner, Liszt, Osborne, Rosenheim, E. Wolff. *With facsimile of their writing*.» Here the words written to Fontana on August 9÷10, 1841, become clear: somehow the composer and Schlesinger had already come to an agreement!

It is interesting to follow the evolution of this announcement: on September 19, it is repeated as previously, but on October 17 it undergoes a first variation, because the number of composers rises—in fact, there are added Stéphen Heller, Mendelssohn and Moscheles—and the facsimile changes: it will be «a Waltz by Rossini in fac-simile of his writing.» On October 31, the announcement lists two new names: A. Méreaux and ... J. Fontana! In all, 13 composers! On November 7, the release date is postponed to 28 November. On November 14, it is repeated unchanged. On November 21, the name of Liszt desappeared. On Dec. 5, the date of publication is again postponed to 12 December, which is the date of actual publication.

The insertion of Fontana on October 31 has the air of a sop given to quieten his likely resentment regarding the management of the Troupenas affair, whereas the deletion of Liszt in the announcement of November 21 has two probable causes: somebody, superstitious—and Chopin was that—might have observed how little suitable it was that number for the success of the *Keepsake*. In addition, Liszt was quite busy: he was in fact on tour (London, Hamburg, etc.) and was preparing an arrangement of the *Funeral March* from the *Eroica Symphony* just for Mechetti's *Album*. In any case, in view of Liszt's character, it is highly unlikely that someone could venture to remove him from the list, but rather, it was Liszt himself that gave up the *Keepsake*, much less important than Beethovenean commitments!

Finally, the timing related to the *Keepsake* confirms without any doubt what we had maintained in our article on *Polonaise* Op. 44, that is, the breakup with Troupenas was not an event caused by proximate causes, but the result of a Chopin's precise planning, which was being carried out without fail before August 1841.

¹⁰ Cf. D. Ollivier, Correspondance de Liszt et de Madame D'Agoult, II, Paris (Grasset) ⁷1934, p. 178. Liszt was also very annoyed, because Mechetti had not had the «common sense» to entrust him with «the direction of such a publication».

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PRÉLUDE'S STRUCTURE AND ITS TWO MANUSCRIPTS.

Although the only almost identical bars are $6 \div 12 = 68 \div 74$, some light differences confirm that Chopin did not resort to their numbering. It becomes, therefore, useful for the purpose of a correct *recensio* we examine the structure of the piece. The diagram, below, shows in the left column the bars' numbers constituting the various sections, while on the right the sections are divided into phrases. The bars vertically aligned are each the echo of the other, those in bold italics are transitional ones.

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60÷66																														
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67÷75:	67	68	69	70	71																									
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Preparing the cadenza, caden									and	res	solu	itio	n		•															
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Coda																														
84÷91																														

The first striking remark is the lack of quadrature:" the exposition of the subject, in fact, occupies 5 bars and ends with bar 9, which is also the beginning echo of the subject and ends at bar 13, which in turn contains the anacrusis of countersubject, exposed in 6 bars, where the sixth bar (no. 19) is also the beginning of the re-exposition of the first subject. The just exposed thoughts are then continuously modulated in search of a new tonality, as incessantly driven to an unknown new sonorous dimension, up to jump into attempt to atonality (cadenza) and the transfigured coming back from such a sound experience.

In this unique masterpiece, in spite of the lack of quadrature, you do not feel any imbalance: Chopin with his genius creates a vagueness that captivates the listener and brings him in another dimension, previously unknown. No composer before or since Chopin has never created anything like that. Not even Bach. In *Berceuse* shimmering glow will enlighten the precious ingredients of the beauty of the universal soul, here in the *Prélude*, the universal πνεύμα (pnéνma), the primordial breath of life, rising for a fleeting moment over human miseries, manifests itself to our contemplation.

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[&]quot;Who is sensitive to music language feels annoyed if there is no quadrature: it is as if the sentences had a limp without an accomplished meaning. Did you ever sing in an improvised chorus? There is always someone who does not "feel" the quadrature and enters before the time or late.

From the letter of October 6, 1841, we know that Chopin made two manuscripts of the *Prélude*, «written in large notes for Schl[esinger] and in smaller ones for Mechetti.» The composer's words become clear only after finding that the notes of the *cadenza* in **A** are like grace notes, in **F**1 they are of normal size. Why this difference? We can only speculate. Since it is not likely to think that the composer remained without the manuscript (\mathcal{A}^*), on which he had achieved the *Prélude*, he made a first copy ($\mathcal{A}1^*$) for Schlesinger without too much worry of being careful and precise, so he copied the *cadenza* as it was in \mathcal{A}^* . Then, with much more care preparing the copy for Mechetti ($\mathcal{A}2^*$), he thought that the smaller notes expressed better the *cadenza*'s etherealness. If this hypothesis is probable, it follows that, compared to \mathcal{A}^* , both $\mathcal{A}1^*$ and $\mathcal{A}2^*$ could contain oversights and errors, but not necessarily the same, and that, more specifically, $\mathcal{A}2^*$ contained a lower number of them than $\mathcal{A}1^*$. This means that the collation of **A** and **F**1 should not give unexpected finds, but rather confirm a substantial identity. But this is not the case!

Now, if the Austrian pianist-proofreader was the same who took charge of the *Polonaise* Op. 44 (remember that both compositions were sent to Vienna in the same envelope prepared for this purpose by Chopin himself¹⁶), should we expect that the *Prélude*, too, retains traces of a foreign hand? We argue yes, because certain differences exquisitely pertaining to piano playing, as the pedalling, and some readings seem to rule out a different solution.

A sure sign left by the corrector is right in the *cadenza*: in fact, in addition to "*leggier*." at the beginning, and "*dim*." toward the end, under "*Cadenza*." A adds "*a piacere*.", which not only contradicts the two specific previous instructions, but also it is not a Chopin's expression. Thus, the corrector is just the same who laid hands on *Polonaise* Op. 44, because that "*a piacere*." was not certainly written by Chopin! What else did that individual bring about?

Well, we see a striking difference in pedalling. Let us compare, ex. gr., bars $7 \div 8$:



Whereas in F1 the pedalling follows the breath indicated by the slur—which in both autographs was undoubtedly drawn above, as in F1, not below the arpeggios of l.h., in A the pedalling is broken off in the middle of the slur, that is out of breath, and this piano nonsense is repeated along the *Prélude*. Eigeldinger explains as follows: «This variant is undoubtedly intentional, possibly corresponding to the different attributes of the Viennese instruments (Graf) and the Pleyel pianos that Chopin especially prized. In any case, the two different pedallings should be taken into account and weighed up when performing on the modern piano». On the contrary, Ekier, the only true pianist among the three quoted editors, even if he follows A, puts its pedalling into brackets. Certain ideas can only come to a non-pianist!

"S Chopin was used to finishing the details during proofreading. Besides, at that time he was copying a lot and was exasperated: «[...] if I had—he admits to Fontana on October 17, 1841—to write out those 18 pages once more, I should get mad.» (cf. CFC III, p. 88).

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¹² Cf. CFC III, p. 82.

¹⁴ The explanation is simple: during the compositional process, given the complexity of the *cadenza* with all the deletions and changes needed to give it the final form, it would have been premature and uncomfortable to worry about the shape of the notes.

¹⁵ Although it has never been pointed out, Chopin paid a lot of attention to the look of his notation.

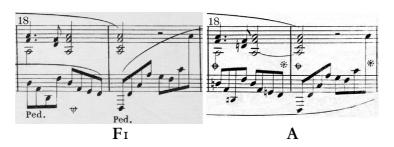
¹⁶ Cf. CFC III, p. 82.

Who would accept the rococo hypothesis of Eigeldinger as plausible, should justify the pedalling of the *Polonaise* Op. 44. In fact, if it was Chopin who added the pedalling in the source addressed to Vienna (like someone mistakenly wants to believe), this would mean that Graf and Pleyel exchanged their reciprocal resonance only for the *Polonaise*! If, however, as we have shown, the pedalling was added to the *Polonaise* by the supposed intrepid Austrian corrector, Eigeldinger's hypothesis falls into that corrector's clutches, because to the *Polonaise* a false pedalling was added, while in the *Prélude* an authentic one was mutilated.

Finally, the pedalling of A is not a variant, but the result of the irresponsible action of the professional corrector engaged by Mechetti. And that's not all!

It has been noticed that F1 contains «a large number of errors and omissions, particularly with regard to accidentals». This is true, but it should also be added that any pianist with a minimum of musicianship is able to correct without difficulty all of the accidentals incorrect or missing.

There is only one doubtful case that deserves our attention. This is bar $18(\div 19)$:



From bar 17 we realize that bar 18 starts in *D major*, and the corrector of **A**, rightly, adds the missing naturals, but he affixes a natural even before *G* in the l. h., and, without bothering to understand the reason for the pedal's release on the previous *D*, he moves it to the last quaver of the bar. Well, these two pedallings cannot both come from Chopin, one for Graf's pianos and one for Pleyel's ones!

Then, why does the composer place the pedal's release on D? Obvious: because the transition to the tonality of F sharp minor begins from that G (sharp). Mikuli seems to be the only one to have understood that!¹⁸

If—as the mentioned authoritative editors silently claim—bar 18 is all in *D major*, why are the common notes of right h. not tied? This is not really Chopinesque, so much so that the editors of the first critical edition, ¹⁹ who were not philologists but much better prepared and equipped from a music point of view, after having detected that stylistic anomaly, invent non-

¹⁷ Cf. CFEO cit. (v. supra note 15). Everything suggests that Chopin not only did not correct F1 for F2, but he did not revised the proofs of F1 either.

¹⁸ Mikuli is the only editor who maybe could hear this Prélude performed by the Master, but it is only a possibility not proven. On the contrary, the fact that he chose to follow the French first edition, and not the Austrian one—given his preferences and good relations with Friederike Müller, a direct witness of the publication process of both *Polonaise* Op. 44 and *Prélude* Op. 45—would justify a careful examination of his edition. Tellefsen, a pupil of Chopin, in his edition (Richault) corrects some mistakes, yes, but not all, and neglects the more serious ones; moreover, in the *cadenza* his correction of an accidental generates a new error: in short, as for our *Prélude*, he was shamefully negligent. For the aforementioned trinity of the Chopinean publishing trade there is no problem: Ekier and Müllemann only notice that the natural before G is only in the German first edition, while Eigeldinger omits the information *tout court*.

¹⁹ Fr. Chopin's Werke, hg. von W. Bargiel, J. Brahms, A. Franchomme, F. Liszt, C. Reinecke, E. Rudorff (erste kritisch durchgesehene Gesammtausgabe), 14 Bd., Leipzig (Breitkopf una Härtel) 1878-1902 (the *Prélude* Op. 45 is on p. 36 of 6th volume).

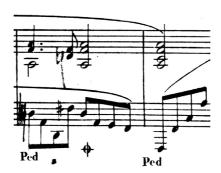
existent ties, while Klindworth²⁰ even rewrites the bar and, trying to imitate Chopin, adds a D to the minim chord. But the A-F-A chord has no D, because the I. h. is modulating into F sharp minor:





Although this argument cannot in itself be enough to reject the reading of A, the remark of a stylistic incongruity corroborates what the pedal's displacement allows us to conclude, that is F1 and A oppose two pedallings, one true and one false.

From a philological point of view both the displacement of pedal's release and the stylistic inconsistency are enough to determine that the reading of **A** is not authentic. Fortunately, we also have an exemplar of **F**₂ belonging to the so-called *partitions Jędrzejewicz*, which contain corrections written by Chopin in his own hand. Here is bar 18:

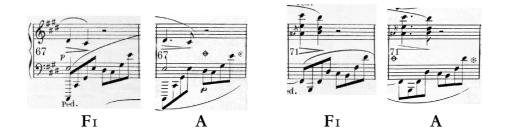


You can see that Chopin corrected the first D in l. h. by overwriting a natural on the wrong sharp, and added an unnecessary sharp before F, then affixed another natural before D in right h., but, mind you, he did not move any pedal's release, and, above all, did not put any natural before G! The pen strokes betray a certain irritation. Well, is it plausible to think that correcting this bar, Chopin neglected that G, which was right there under his very eyes? Even if it is not impossible, we do not think so, as at that very moment his attention was fixed on accidentals: all the rest could also escape, but not the missing accidentals. In other words, Chopin did not add any other natural, because there was no natural to add.

Our conclusion is that bar 18 of **A** was manipulated by the Austrian corrector. It is astonishing that the most *blasé* trinity of the Chopinean publishing trade did not even realize the difficulty.

Finally, we must examine bars 67 and 71:

Fr. Chopin, Oeuvres complètes, revues, doigtées et soigneusement corrigées d'après les éditions de Paris, Londres, Bruxelles et Leipsic par Charles Klindworth. Seule édition authentique, II, Préludes, Berlin (Ed. Bote & G. Bock) s.d., p. 197. Klindworth, one of the few "real" pupils of Liszt, was an excellent pianist who loved Chopin. In his much-maligned edition, where he seems to distort the text of Chopin (a distortion more graphic than essential), actually he seeks to guide the student towards a Chopinesque interpretation, and in many places he provides indications that, through Liszt, go back to Chopin.



Here there is only one indication of the almost certain manipulation by the Austrian corrector, and it is the bar's 67 pedalling, which—unlike the almost identical bar 5—begins in the middle of bar: this pedal comes not from Chopin! We believe even the displacement of p is arbitrary. Unfortunately, there is no evidence to suspect that the same corrector has dotted the crotchets, though, from the point of view of the musical language, the crotchets of F1 make sense, the dotted ones of A are a little dull! In the repeat (bars $67 \div 75$) thoughts are relaxing, before attempting to jump with confident calmness into the *cadenza*, after which they go back to human dimension. But this is a consideration of musical semantics, not philology.

A final word on the "trinity". In all editions of the *Prélude*, we got to see, the *cadenza* contains a misprint, which we hoped could disappear in the Chopin's editions by the "trinity". But no! All of the three editions hold it with elegant carelessness (the missing \sharp before C is indicated by a small arrow):



How many pseudo-Urtext and pseudo-critical editions will be needed to eliminate this error?²²

* * *

To conclude, the collation of the three first editions allows stating that:

- like in the case of *Polonaise* Op. 44, Schlesinger presented Wessel with a copy of F1 corrected by Moscheles, and he did not bring back anything; hence, Wessel lied shamelessly to Moscheles;²³
- again, like in the case of *Polonaise*, A shows clear traces of arbitrary actions of a pianist proofreader, who arrogated the power of "adapting" the text of Chopin to his
 preferences: he added the expression "a piacere" and changed the pedalling just like

²² We want to warn the reader that this is not the only error you will find in Peters edition of the *Préludes*. Henle, then, gives us a real howler (in the lower staff of bar 3):



Behind the thirds is printed "Opus 28"! It is a consolation, because not only in Italy but also in Germany there are people who work with the bottom.

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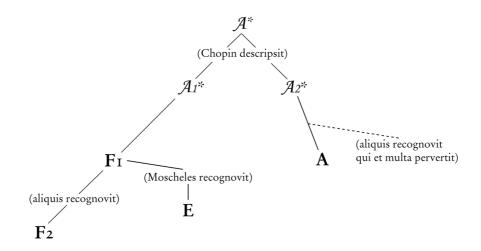
[&]quot;However surprising it may be, the only edition without that misprint is the English first edition!

²³ Cf. Fr. L. Viero, art. cit., p. 4.

in the *Polonaise*; moreover, he altered bar 18 and effaced the modulation; finally, most likely he also dotted the crotchets of bars 67 and 71.

All this makes **F**1 the most authoritative source.

Here is the *stemma*:



Legenda:

* source not available;

A* working autograph;

A1* autograph copy of A* for Schlesinger;

 $A2^*$ autograph copy of A^* for Mechetti.

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Postscript

Some of the arguments contained in the article here above, after the publication of our critical edition of the *Prélude* Op. 45, to which we direct the reader, are out-of-date. In particular:

- P. I In addition to already known first editions we have got a hitherto unknown document, F1^G, not lithographed, but imprinted directly from engraved plates. It comes from "Collection Glensk in Poland", whose owner, Jeremiusz Glensk, sent us, free, the photos of the title page and the text of the *Prélude*.
- P. 3
 M. 87. As for the dot added to the fourth last quaver Moscheles did not that, because in all probability both the dots were in the proofs, not lithographed.
- P. 5 The date of F1^G should be anticipated to November.
- P. 7 The Cadenza's writing is re-discussed in the introduction to the critical edition.

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