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PRINCE ANTONI RADZIWIŁŁ AND FRYDERYK CHOPIN
– THE START OF THEIR ACQUAINTANCE IN THE LIGHT OF SOURCES

This article presents different versions of an important moment in the biography of Fryderyk Chopin: his first meeting with Prince Antoni Radziwiłł, Russian-appointed governor of the Grand Duchy of Posen. That meeting led to Chopin being invited to the prince's Antonin residence. In addition, Prince Radziwiłł declared that he was willing to support Chopin's future career. The composer's first biographers (M. Karasowski, J. Sikorski) erred with regard to the date and circumstances of that encounter.

The author of this article dwells on the *Pamiętniki Bogusławy z Dąbrowskich Mańkowskiej* [Memoirs of Bogusława Mańkowska, née Dąbrowska] (1880). Mańkowska presents the meeting between Radziwiłł and Chopin in some detail and describes the story of the medallion bearing a likeness of his daughter Eliza, lost by the prince, which was happily found by Chopin. She relates that Prince Radziwiłł met Chopin in Wilanów on 17 November 1825 and then, out of gratitude, invited the young man to take part in a concert in Poznań in 1825 or 1826. It turns out, however, that the memoirist recounted the story of the medallion from a supplement to the book *Trzy salony* [Three salons] (1873) by Marcelli Antoni Szulc, who in turn took it from the periodical *Die Gartenlaube* (1867), where it had been published by the German writer Eliza Polko. In describing a concert in Poznań in which Chopin participated, Mańkowska mistook the pianist's identity: it was not Fryderyk Chopin performing, but Józef Krogulski, as was related in the press.

On the basis of mentions in the press, correspondence and historical facts, the author establishes the more or less likely versions of events. He ultimately leads the reader to the conclusion that Prince Antoni Radziwiłł and his wife Luiza met the fifteen-year-old Fryderyk Chopin between 27 April and 14 June 1825, after his performance in front of Tsar Alexander I and his guests.