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THE HISTORY OF TWO LETTERS
WRITTEN BY FRYDERYK CHOPIN TO ADOLPHE GUTMANN

We know of four letters which Fryderyk Chopin wrote to Adolphe Gutmann, not including a small piece of paper handed to him by a messenger in Paris. Two of them date from 1847, and the originals are held in the Houghton Library (Harvard University) and the Fryderyk Chopin Museum in Warsaw.

This article deals with the other two letters, written in 1848. It is not known where the originals are held. They may be irrecoverably lost. However, a reproduction of one of them – a letter of 16 October 1848 written in French at Lord Torphichen’s residence in Mid Calder (Calder House), near Edinburgh – was discovered by the author of this article in the Biblioteca Marucelliana in Florence in the book *Fiori di campo – Firenze a Scio* (Florence 1881), not familiar to Chopin’s biographers and editors of his letters.

The contents of both the letters from 1848 were first published in the German weekly *Die Gegenwart* in 1879 by Bernhard Stavenow, a close friend of Gutmann’s, who presented them in the original French and a German translation in an article entitled ‘Drei Briefe von George Sand und Friedrich Chopin an Adolf Gutmann’. In 1880 Marcelli Antoni Szulc, in the Warsaw biweekly *Echo Muzyczne*, presented Stavenow’s article in a Polish translation, without giving the author’s name. The editors of Chopin’s collected letters for French readers, Henryk Opieński (*Frédéric Chopin, Lettres*, 1933) and Bronisław Edward Sydow (*Correspondance de Frédéric Chopin*, vol. iii, 1960), were unable to establish the provenance of Szulc’s text... The author of this article presents the complicated fortunes of the editions of both letters and explains how the translated texts became ‘originals’.