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REFLECTIONS OF THE TRANSLATOR
OF THE NEW ‘CORRESPONDENCE OF FRYDERYK CHOPIN’

The author of this article presents his reflections both as a translator who meticulously analyses the texts he is translating and also as an expert on Chopin studies. He emphasises the significance of Chopin and his music in Japan, and also the value of the composer’s letters, which enable readers to become better acquainted with the composer and to more fully understand his works. The reflections encompass *Korespondencja Fryderyka Chopina* (‘The correspondence of Fryderyk Chopin’, ed. Bronisław Edward Sydow, 1955), the selection from that edition translated into English (ed. Arthur Hedley, 1962) and translated from the English into Japanese (ed. Yūichirō Komatsu, 1965), *Korespondencja Fryderyka Chopina z rodziną* (‘Fryderyk Chopin’s correspondence with his family’, ed. Krystyna Kobylańska, 1972), the Japanese book *Chopin* (Kazuyuki Tōyama, 1976) and also the new edition of *Korespondencja Fryderyka Chopina*, vol. i: 1816–1831 (ed. Zofia Helman, Zbigniew Skowron, Hanna Wróblewska-Straus, 2009), published by Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, containing extensive footnotes, explanations and biographical notes of persons associated with Chopin. The author draws attention to the usefulness of those commentaries, as they show the historical-cultural context, extremely important for understanding those times, and the achievements of Chopin-related research. The article presents selected linguistic and cultural problems which the translation of Chopin’s letters pose for a Japanese translator.