

Poland Honours Her Hero Musician

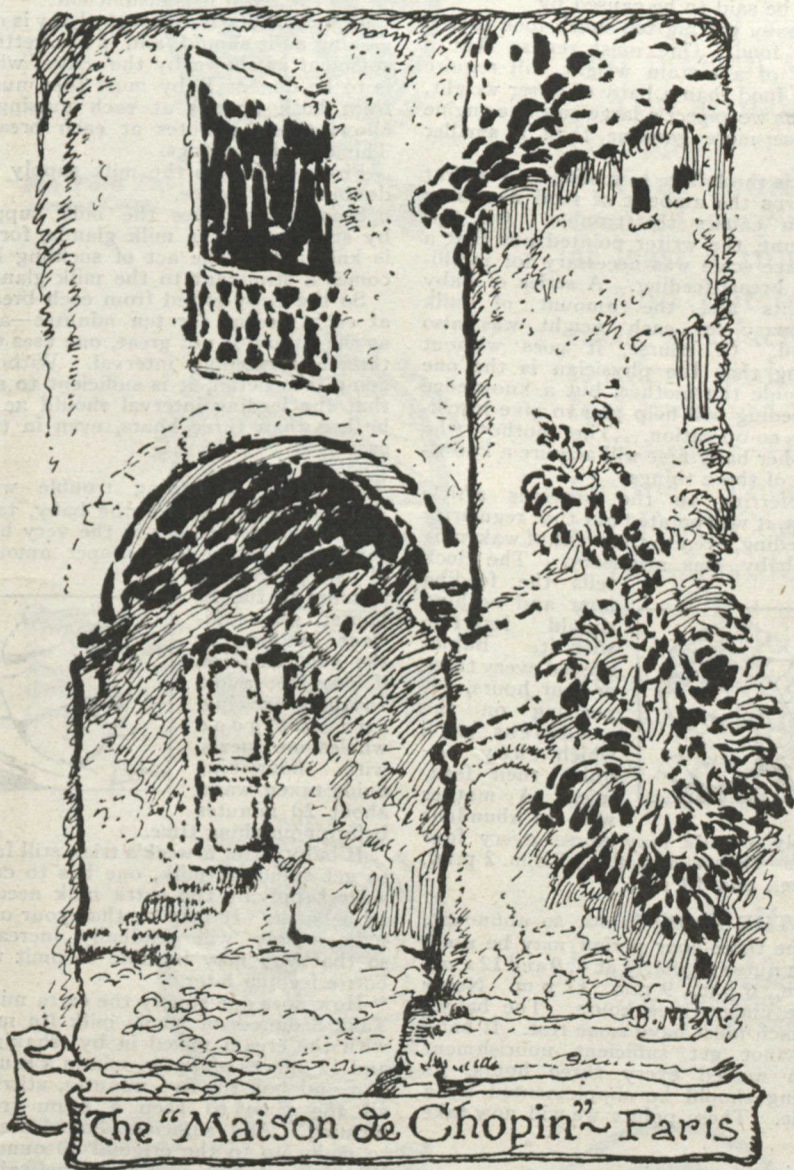
*"Plaque" Placed on House in Paris where
Frédéric François Chopin Produced His
Most Noteworthy Compositions*

PADEREWSKI is not the only great musician of Poland who will live in the hearts of his countrymen as a great politician as well as a great artist. With the placing of a *plaque* on the house in Paris where Chopin lived from 1842 to 1849, Chopin's memory has been commemorated as a great patriot. The ceremony was conducted under the supervision of Count Maurice Zamoyski, the Polish Minister to Paris. It was in this house, on which the *plaque* has been placed, that Chopin lived the feverish, productive years of his life. The house is situated in the Rue Taitbout, just off the busy boulevards of to-day. But in Chopin's time the boulevard was just a mere broad, tree-lined thoroughfare.

It was here that Chopin and George

was just as much in evidence in the accoutrements of the army of to-day as it did honour to his fellow patriot.

CHOPIN, himself, was always much beloved by the French people as well as by his compatriots. He was born near Warsaw and began his musical training at the age of nine under Ziwny, a pupil of Sebastian Bach. Prince Radziwill sent him to Warsaw College, where his genius began to assert itself. Later on he became a pupil at the Warsaw Conservatory, and there thoroughly mastered the science of music. His fellow students introduced him into the highest society, and he soon developed the romantic spirit of the Polish race. He embraced the imaginative melancholy of the peasant as well as the grace and culture of the



The "Maison de Chopin" Paris

Sand gathered the talented Polish exiles and those compatriots who left the native land to take advantage of the opportunities which Paris offered them. George Sand was just as enthusiastic as Chopin in welcoming and bringing together all the artists and men of letters of Poland who lived in Paris.

Chopin's heart would have beat loudly had he been present in person on the day of the commemoration of his services to Poland. Before the narrow portals of the house, where he made his headquarters for more than seven years, was drawn up a squad of Polish soldiers, in the uniform which the soldiers of the new regime wear. But the white eagle, which formed the insignia of the army in Chopin's day,

Polish aristocrat, and his character shines out through all his compositions. He went and settled in Paris and lived and worked among the *elite*, and it was here he met with George Sand, and that extraordinary friendship arose. Chopin, early in life, developed consumption, which must have made all labour very arduous. He is buried in Pere Lachaise beside Cherebini and Bellini. His compositions stand alone owing to the peculiar nature of his genius; they are extremely beautiful and full of poetic imagery. He mostly employed dance forms round which to weave his melodies. With regard to his technique on the piano, he was among the finest executants, and he introduced the free use of the thumb on the black keys which revolutionized all piano playing.

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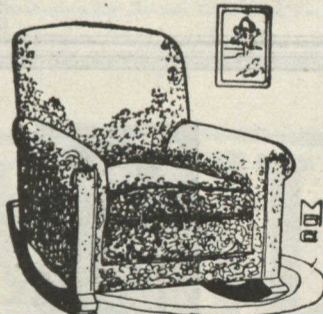
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