

List of Circulating Music Libraries in France

Updated by Anita Breckbill, December 2015

Following is an updated list of circulating music libraries in France spanning the period of their existence, 1765 to ca. 1950. The preliminary list was published as an appendix to the article by Anita Breckbill and Carole Goebes, “Music Circulating Libraries in France: An Overview and a Preliminary List” *Notes* 63:4 (June 2007), 761-797. Further work in the collection of publisher’s catalogs at the Bibliothèque nationale de France and in 18th-century periodicals have yielded ten more circulating libraries and an expansion of dates of operation for a further eleven libraries. Changes are indicated in red type.

Sources: The list was compiled from the six following sources.

- 1) The Rokahr Family Archive (RFA) at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. The archive is a collection of nearly five thousand opera scores, with concentration on French works of the nineteenth century. A number of these scores were bought on the used book market, and we identified 107 that came from former music circulating libraries. Such scores are usually marked with stickers on the front covers, sometimes with inscribed covers, and sometimes with stamped pages.
- 2) Annuals of commerce in Paris and provinces as follows: *Almanach du commerce de Paris* and *Annuaire général du commerce et de l’industrie* (referred to in this paper as Didot-Botin). The following years for these annuals have been searched: 1804, 1809, 1816, 1821, 1832, 1835-1908, 1910-11, 1913, 1915-17, 1919-20, 1922, 1925, 1927, 1929-31, 1933, 1935, 1939-1940, 1950, 1953 and 1959. Missing volumes were either not published (pre-1835) or not available in the British Library (post-1908). A search in the “Professions” section in the Paris volumes under “Musique (marchands de)” proved to be the most useful. The search yielded a list of music shops, which sometimes mentioned “*abonnements*” as well as other functions of the shop. Listings of functions were much rarer in the provinces section, so provincial music circulating libraries were rarely identified using these annuals.
- 3) *Agenda musical* for 1836-37 and *Annales de la musique*, 1819. Both of these sources list music businesses operating in France at the time.
- 4) Anik Devriès and François Lesure, *Dictionnaire des éditeurs de musique français*, 2 vols. in 3, Archives de l’édition musicale française (Geneva: Minkoff, 1979-88). While the aim of this reference source is to give information about publishers, occasionally a music circulating library is mentioned in the information about a specific business.
- 5) Advertisements in music periodicals sometimes yielded names of businesses advertising music circulating libraries. Some of these names were found in no other sources.

- 6) Publishers' catalogs. The collection of publisher's catalogs at the Bibliothèque nationale de France yielded a few for music circulating libraries, many publisher's catalogs that also mentioned a connected library, and fliers and folders that advertised the libraries. Since the name of the business had to be identified before material was requested, there may be some businesses with catalogs that mentioned circulating libraries that we missed.

Dates: The list includes dates of the business as stated in Devriès-Lesure or other reference sources. The circulating library, however, may not have been operated during the whole tenure of the business. Therefore, the third column is "Verified dates of *abonnement*" which gives the first and last independently verified dates that we have for a music circulating library. These dates are indicated with the following abbreviations:

Ad=from advertisement

Ann=from specific mention in published annual, such as Didot-Bottin

Cat=from catalog published by the business

D-L=from Devriès-Lesure

RFA=from score in the Rokahr Family Archive. **In this case the date presented is derived from the publication date of the score, i.e., the abonnement was in business after the score was published.**

Completeness of list: The list is incomplete. If the business never listed itself as having a music circulating library in Didot-Bottin; if we found no advertisements for it nor mention of it in Devriès-Lesure; if no score for it existed in the RFA, the name is not listed. We expect that we have found the largest percentage of Parisian music circulating libraries, but not all. We expect that there were many more music circulating libraries in the provinces than we have so far been able to identify.

Music Circulating Libraries in Paris

Names and addresses	Dates of business	Verified Dates of <i>Abonnement</i>
1. Agence musicale 182, rue Monmartre	1848	1848 (Ad)
2. Alleton 13, rue Racine	1898-1926	[unknown] (RFA)
3. Allier 116, Rivoli	1855	1855 (Ann)
4. André 5, quai Voltaire	1883-1925?	1893-1925 (Ann)
5. Arnaud, F. No. 27 bis, rue de Cléry	ca. 1825 (Cat)	1825 (Cat)
6. Barthé 86, rue de Rennes	ca. 1902 (Ann)	[after 1881] (RFA)
7. Bernard Latte 2, boulevard des Italiens	1832-1854	1835 (Ann)-1846 (Cat)
8. Biville 6, rue du Coq-Saint-Honoré	1843-1844	1844 (Ann)
9. Boieldieu, Charles 18, rue Vivienne ¹	1835-1850	[1836] (Cat)
10. Boieldieu, Louis 34, passage Choiseul	1850-1852	1850 (Cat)-1851 (Ann)
11. Bonoldi frères 11, boulevard des Italiens	1846-1872	1848-1851 (Ann)
12. Brandus 87 and 103, rue Richelieu 1 and 3, boulevard des Italiens	1846-1887	1850 (Cat)-1888 (Ann)
13. Brullé, Alexandre 14 and 16, passage des Panoramas, grande galerie	1841-1854	1841 (Ad)-1855 (Ann) ²
14. Bureau d'abonnement musical Cour de l'ancien grand Cerf, rue des deux portes Saint-Sauveur Rue du Hazard	1765-1789?	1765? (Ad)-1789 (Ann)
15. Carpentier 24, rue du Quatre Septembre	1880-1882	1882 (Ann)
16. Catelin, Adolphe 6, rue du Coq Saint-Honoré	1837-1844	1841 (Cat)-1843 (Ann)
17. Cendrier, Mme 1 and 11, rue du faubourg Poissonnière	1841-1859	1841 (Ad)-1850 (Ann)
18. Chabal, Françoise-Joseph	1840-1858	[1840] (Ad)-1848 (Ann)

¹ Addresses are listed only for the dates that circulating libraries are verified. In some cases, as in this one, businesses had other addresses during the tenure of the business.

² Occasionally the ending date found for a circulating library succeeds the sale date of the business. We assume this happened when information was sent in to a yearbook for the next publication before the business actually ended.

- 10, boulevard des Italiens
11, boulevard Montmartre
19. **Chaillon, Paul** 1854-1858 1856 (Ann)
14, passage des Panoramas, grande galerie
20. **Challiot, Etienne** 1837-1866 1838 (Ad)-1860 (Cat)
338, 336, 252, and 354, rue Saint-Honoré
21. **Chartier** 1892-1912 1894 (Ann)
21, rue Saint-Sulpice
22. **Chatot, Emile** 1858-1905 1859-1886 (Ann)
2, rue de la Vrillère
2, rue de la Feuillade
19, rue Neuve-des-Petits-Champs
19, rue des Petits-Champs
23. **Clément** ca. 1901- ca. 1933 1901 (Ann)
129 bis, rue de la Pompe
24. **Collard** 1844 1844 (Ad)-1845(Ann)
27 (or 29?), rue Neuve-des-Petits-Champs
25. **Collet, père et fils** ca. 1856-1858 1856 (Ann)
123, rue Saint-Honoré
26. **Colombier, François-Jules** 1838-1892 1839-1880 (Ann)
6, rue Vivienne
2, passage Vivienne
27. **Colombier, Marcel** 1862-1882 1863-1876 (Ann)
85, rue Richelieu
28. **Costil, Edouard** 1900-1911 1901-1911 (Ann)
aka Costil, père
221 faubourg Saint-Honoré
29. **Cotelle** 1838-1890 1843-1847 (Cat)
137, rue Saint-Honoré
30. **D'Arnaud, L.** 1843-1846 1845 (Ad)-1846 (Ann)
18, rue Vivienne
31. **Darrest** ca. 1838 1838 (Ann)
21, rue de la Paix
32. **D'Aubel, H.L.** 1866-1875 1866-1868 (Ann)
8, rue Ollivier and 2, rue Fléchier
33. **Decombe** 1795-1819 1802³
14, quai de l'Ecole
34. **Delette, Mme** 1837-1842 1840-1843 (Ann)
20, boulevard Saint-Denis
35. **Denuelle, Mme** ca. 1836-1837 1836-1837 (Ann)
12, rue du Cloître-Saint Benoît
36. **Dolot-Binon** ca. 1877-ca. 1882 1879-1880 (Ann)
2, avenue de Messine
37. **Dufaut (or Dufaut et Dubois)** 1819-1842 1824 (Cat)-1838 (Ann)

³ Date from *Correspondance des musiciens* (17.XI.1802) as quoted in Devriès, Anik and François Lesure, *Dictionnaire des éditeurs de musique français*, v. 1, p. 54.

- 10, boulevard Poissonnière
4, rue du Mail
38. **Duhan, Mme** 1802-1821 1819 (Ann)
10, boulevard Poissonnière
39. **Dumouchel** 1846-1848 1847-1849 (Ann)
35, rue Neuve-Vivienne
40. **Duquesnay, Mme** 1835-1841 1837-1839 (Ann)
398, rue Saint-Honoré
41. **Durand** 1869- 1872 (Cat)-1953 (Ann)
4, place de la Madeleine
42. **Durdilly & cie** 1878-1908 1880 (Ann)
11 bis, boulevard Haussmann
43. **Eschig** 1907-1987 1909 (Ad)-**after** 1935 (RFA)
13, rue Laffitte
48, rue de Rome
1, rue de Madrid
44. **Eveillard, Louis-Marin** 1874-1910 1892-1900 (Ann)
39, boulevard de Strasbourg
45. **Feuchot, Philippe** 1860-1888 1881 (Cat)-1891 (Ann)
2, boulevard de Strasbourg
46. **Fortin, G.** ca. 1920-ca. 1953 1920-1953 (Ann)
93, rue Richelieu
47. **Frère, Antoine-Charles** 1812-1841 1819-1839 (Ann)
69, rue de Richelieu
16, passage des Panoramas
48. **Fromont, Eugène** 1885-1922 1887? (D-L)
12, passage du Saumon
49. **Garcia, L.** ca. 1880 1880 (Ann)
43, rue du Bac
50. **Gérard, Edouard** 1859-1879 1861 (Ann)-1875 (Ann)
aka Compagnie musicale
18, rue Dauphine
1 et 3, rue de la Chaussée-d'Antin
12, boulevard des Capucines
51. **Gambogi Frères** 1858-1878 1859 (Cat)-1866 (Cat)
15, boulevard Montmartre
112, rue de Richelieu
52. **Girod** 1853-1917 1860 (Cat)-1888 (Ann)
16, boulevard Montmartre
53. **Gobert, E.** 1888-1996 1895 (Ad)
7, boulevard Saint Michel
54. **Gregh, Louis** 1873-1907 [**betw. 1883 & 1890**] (RFA)
6, rue de la Chaussée-d'Antin
55. **Grus** 1832-1933 1836 (Ann)-1913 (Ad)
60, rue Saint-Louis
31, boulevard Bonne-Nouvelle

	49, boulevard Malesherbes 116, boulevard Haussmann		
56.	Hamelle 22, boulevard Malesherbes	1877-1993	1893-1937 (Ann)
57.	Harand 20, rue de l'Ancienne Comédie	1849-1873	1862 (Ann)
58.	Hébert-Strasser 114, boulevard Saint-Germain	ca. 1904-1908	1904-1908 (Ann)
59.	Heu 10, rue de la Chaussée-d'Antin	1828-1873	1836-1851 (Ann)
60.	Heugel Began as Meissonnier et Heugel 2 bis, rue Vivienne	1839-1980	1842 (Ad)-1919 (Cat)
61.	Hiélard 8, rue Laffitte	1863-1893	1871 (Ann)-1878 (Cat)
62.	Iochem, J. 48, rue Saint-Placide	1868-1899	[ends after 1877] (RFA)
63.	Janet et Cotelle 17, rue Neuve des Petits-Champs	1808-1836	1810 (Ad)
64.	Janet Frères 47, rue Neuve-Vivienne	1837-1844	[1838?]-[1839?] (Cat)
65.	Katto 17, rue des Saints-Pères	1861-1892	1875 (Ann)-1883 (Ad)
66.	Keith, Prowse, et cie. 131, rue du faubourg Saint-Honoré	1890-1891	1890 (Ann)
67.	Lacombe 11, rue du faubourg Poissonnière	1886-1895	1887-1900 (Ann)
68.	Lafleur 2, boulevard Bonne-Nouvelle	1852-1896	1858-1862 (Ann)
69.	Laloue 5, boulevard Poissonnière	1888-1895	1889-1890 (Ann)
70.	LaPlanche-Fortin 51, rue Saint-Placide	ca. 1916-ca. 1933	1916/17-1925 (Ann)
71.	Launer 14, boulevard Montmartre 16, boulevard Montmartre	1828-1853	1829 (Cat)-1853 (Ann)
72.	Leduc (variously Pierre, Auguste, and Mme Vve.) 78, rue Richelieu 47, rue Vivienne prolongée 47, rue Neuve-Vivienne	1775-1846?	1798 (D-L)-1838 (Ann)
73.	Leduc, Alphonse 18, rue Vivienne	1842-1914	1847 (Cat)-1852 (Ann)
74.	Legendre 62, rue Saint-Antoine	1838-1842	1839 (Ann)
75.	Legoux (E.)	1869-1872	1870 (Ann)

	14, rue Halévy		
76.	Lemoine, aîné 20, rue de l' Ancienne Comédie	1812-1850	1836 (Ann)
77.	Lemoine, Henry 9, rue de l' Echelle Saint-Honoré 256, rue Saint-Honoré 17, rue Pigalle	1816-	1820 (Ann)-1880 (Cat)
78.	Lemoine, Mme 18, rue Vivienne	1837-1843	1841 (Cat)-1844 (Ann)
79.	Mackar 22, passage des Panoramas	1865-1895	1866-1868 (Ann)
80.	Maeyens-Couvreur 36 bis, rue du Bac 40, rue du Bac	1841-1873	1842 (Ad)-1854 (Ann)
81.	Maho 24, passage Jouffroy 25, faubourg Saint-Honoré	1851-1877	1858-1870 (Ad)
82.	Maquaire, H. 266, faubourg Saint-Honoré	1912-1961	1913 (Ann)-1925 (Ad)
83.	Maquet, Philippe 103, rue Richelieu 1 et 3, boulevard des Italiens	1887-1899	1885-1895 (Ann)
84.	Mariscotti 7, rue Hyacinthe Saint-Michel	1835-1856	1855-1856 (Ann)
85.	Martin 4, place de la Madeleine	1836-1843	1837-1844 (Ann)
86.	Martin frères 134, boulevard Montmartre 136, boulevard Montmartre	ca. 1853-ca. 1854	1853-1854 (Ann)
87.	Masclet 43, rue du Bac	1877-ca. 1894	1878 (Ann)
88.	Mathieu, Eugène, fils 23, rue d' Amsterdam	1866-1904	1867-1873 (Ann)
89.	Meïß, F. 18, rue Dauphine	1873-1881	1874-1882 (Ann)
90.	Meissonnier, J. 22, rue Dauphine 18, rue Dauphine	1820-1856	[1833]-1857 (Cat)
91.	Mouillard 3, rue des Martyrs 38 bis, grand rue Batignolles	ca. 1847-1848	1847-1848 (Ann)
92.	Muller, Mme 21, rue de Tournon	ca. 1836-1840	1836-1837 (Ann)
93.	O'Kelly 11, faubourg Poissonnière	1872-1888	1874-1886 (Ann)
94.	Pacini	1810-1866	1829 (Cat)-1849 (Ann)

	11, boulevard des Italiens		
95.	Parmentier 37, rue des Mathurins	1903-ca. 1950?	1915 (Ann)
96.	Paté 41, passage du Grand-Cerf	1843-1887	1845 (Ann)
97.	Petit, aîné 50, galerie Montpensier 42, galerie Montpensier	1850-1888	1851-1865 (Ann)
98.	Petit, Alexandre 6, rue Vivienne	1825-1838	[183-] (Cat)-1838 (Ann)
99.	Petit, Philippe 18, rue Vivienne	1816-1835	1826 (Cat)-1836 (Ann)
100.	Pleyel 2, rue Grange-Batelière	1796-1834	1832 (Ann)
101.	Porro, Me. B. 20, rue et place du Chantre	ca. 1835-1836	1835-1836 (Ann)
102.	Poulalion (et J. Accursi) 35, 37 et 39, rue des Petits-Champs	1885-1924	1893 (Ann)
103.	Prilipp 19, boulevard des Italiens, au coin de la Galerie de Fer	1834-1876	1850-1872 (Cat)
104.	Quesnel 10, rue Neuve-du-Luxembourg	1839-1843	1842-1844 (Ann)
105.	Quinzard 24, rue des Capucines	ca. 1850-1902	ca. 1850-1897 (Cat)
106.	Renaud 80, rue Bonaparte, et 1, rue de Mézières	1864-1872	1866 (Cat)
107.	Retté 103, rue Richelieu	1855-1865	1855-1865 (D-L)
108.	Rouart-Lerolle 78 rue d'Anjou 40, boulevard Malesherbes 29, rue d'Astorg	1904-1941	1908 (Ad)-1937 (Cat)
109.	Roudanez 9, rue de Médicis	1905-1934	1912 (Cat)
110.	Rouhier 1, boulevard Poissonnière	1895-1927	1911-1920 (Ann)
111.	Roux 398, rue Saint-Honoré	ca. 1840	1840 (Ann)
112.	Saint-Etienne, Sylvain <i>aka Sylvain-St-Etienne</i> 53, rue Vivienne	1852-1874	1854-1856 (Ann)
113.	Saint-Hilaire⁴ Rue du Faubourg-Poissonnière, 11	1861-1865	1861 (Cat)

⁴ The business was named Magasin de musique du Conservatoire and owned in 1861 by Saint-Hilaire. The business was quite old and went through a number of owners.

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| 114. | Sant'Angelo
52, rue Richelieu | ca. 1859 | 1859 (Ann) |
| 115. | Schlesinger, Maurice
97, rue Richelieu | 1821-1846 | 1826 (Cat)-1843 (Cat) |
| 116. | Schoen et Laval
<i>aka Schoen</i>
42, boulevard Malesherbes | 1870-1877 | 1870 (Ann) |
| 117. | Schonenberger
10, boulevard Poissonnière | 1830-1875 | [1832/33] (Cat) |
| 118. | Sieber fils (variously
Georges-Julien and Adrien
Georges)
28, rue de Richelieu
21, rue des Filles Saint-Thomas | 1799-1847 | 1809-1820 (Ann) |
| 119. | Tellier, H.
23, rue Auber et 36, rue Tronchet | 1876-1898 | 1888-1895 (Ad) |
| 120. | Testé
6, rue du Coq-Saint-Honoré | 1845-1846 | 1845 (Ann) |
| 121. | Troupenas
40, rue Neuve-Vivienne | 1825-1850 | 1845 (Cat)-1850 (Ann) |
| 122. | Turon-Lagau
43 et 51, rue Saint-Placide | ca. 1903 | 1903 (Ann) |
| 123. | Van Deventer, Paul
8, rue du Marché-Passy | ca. 1866-1868 | 1866 (Ann) |
| 124. | Vasseur
18, rue Dauphine | 1881-1893 | 1883-1885 (Ann) |
| 125. | Verger
11, boulevard Haussmann and 13 bis, rue Taitbout | ca. 1878 | 1878 (Ann) |
| 126. | Villeneuve
<i>aka Villeneuve-Tourin</i>
51, rue Saint-Placide | ca. 1904-ca. 1913 | 1904-1913 (Ann) |
| 127. | Wacker
69, rue de Douai | ca. 1870-ca. 1900 | [1897 or later] (RFA) |

Provincial Music Circulating Libraries

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|------|--|----------------|---------------------|
| 128. | Barthelemy
50, Saint-Ferréol, Marseilles | ca. 1850 (Ann) | 1850 (Ann) |
| 129. | Cabrolier
6, rue du Poids de l'Huile, Toulouse | 1898-1914 | [after 1903?] (RFA) |

130. **Delrieu, Henri** 1898-1942? [unknown] (RFA)
5, boulevard Victor Hugo, Nice
131. **De Sivry** 1870-1880? (Ann) [unknown] (RFA)
3, avenue de Saint Cloud, Versailles
132. **Dupont Metzner** 1865- [unknown] (RFA)
7, rue Gambetta, Nancy
133. **Étesse, E.** 1888-1925 [after 1892] (RFA)
37, rue Nationale, Tours
134. **Gand** [unknown] [after 1868?] (RFA)
18, rue Heche, Versailles
135. **Le Boulch** 1879-1921? [1910?] (D-L & RFA)
54, rue de la Paroisse, Versailles
136. **Legresle** ca. 1900-1939? (Ann) [ended after 1920?] (RFA)
24, avenue de la Victoire, Nice
36, boulevard Dubouchage
137. **Mennesson** 1870-1924 1905-1906 (Ad)
Reims
138. **Messerer** 1920-1930 (Ann) [unknown] (RFA)
Marseille
139. **Poirier, A.** 1909-1920⁵ [unknown] (RFA)
94, Grande-Rue, Remiremont
140. **Poret, Melle.** 1900? (Ann) [unknown] (RFA)
47, rue Thiers, 17, Trouville

⁵ Date from letter of 17 January 2006 from the director of the Archives départementales des Vosges, who obtained the information from the Société d'histoire locale du pays de Remiremont.