

Introduction to Instrumental Invoices (sources)

1. Description of the machines and processes specified in the patents of invention from 1791 to 1844

(In Paris, Imprimerie de Madame Huzard, 1811)

The decree of October 8, 1798 charges the Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers with ensuring the publication of patents, as provided for by law. This approach aims to disclose inventions, making their protection possible while promoting their dissemination.

The Conservatoire undertakes the publication of patents filed from 1791 to 1844 in the Description of machines and processes. This work of printing the texts of the patents and the engraving of the drawing plates began in 1811 with the publication of the first volume. In addition to the publication of patents, the Conservatoire has the educational objective of teaching and disseminating technical knowledge.

The manuscripts are sorted according to several criteria: publish certain descriptions in full, summarize others or simply give an idea, eliminate elements deemed useless or redundant.

The editing work consists of rewriting certain handwritten passages and streamlining the drawings. The original realistic plates made in watercolor with shadows and colors are transformed into schematic line drawings to improve their intelligibility. This standardization contributes to the dissemination and standardization of technical knowledge. The project becomes technological through the quality of the line engravings and the printing of the texts and prefigures modern industrial design.

The 323 patents relating to music and musical instruments in the description of machines and processes, the texts and the line drawings as well as the original colour drawing plates have been digitised and converted into entries combining text, drawing and colour plate for a single patent for online consultation.

2. Organography, essay on instrument making from 1789 to 1857 by the Count of Pontécoulant

(Castel, bookseller-publisher, Paris, 1861)

The reports of the eleven national exhibitions in Paris (1798, 1801, 1802, 1806, 1819, 1823, 1827, 1834, 1844 and 1849) give an account of the development of national instrument making and the importance of patents in the musical field. In the report of the Universal Exhibition in London in 1851, English and American patents are mentioned, showing French exhibitors confronted with foreign makers and manufacturers. The entire digitized Pontécoulant work is converted into 2032 entries for consultation on French patents, English and American patents online.

3. Patents for inventions, Abridgments of specifications relating to music and musical instruments from 1694-1866.

(Printed by George E. Eyre and William Spottiswoode, office of the commissioners of patents for inventions. Holborn 1871)

Publication of 1871 of English patents relating to music and musical instruments. The patents are classified by date and number and each contain a descriptive text of the invention. No illustration in this abstract.

The digitized work is converted into 1290 entries put into cards for searching and consulting the texts of English patents online.

4. An index with abstracts to music-related united states patent records 1790-1874

(Jean Bonin 1993 Fallen Leaf Press Berkley, California)

The index, with abstracts to music-related united states patent records, is digitized and converted into 1273 index cards for research and consultation. It was continued from 1875 to 1902 with 2754 entries. Each entry contains the Url link giving access to the publication of the patent on Espacenet (European Patent Office) for the consultation of texts and technical drawings online.

5. French patents relating to music and musical instruments.

They were registered following the patents digitized in Description des machines et processus from 1791 to 1844 to extend the search from 1845 to 2001. A corpus of 10960 records covers all French musical patents from 1791 to 2001. From 1902 each entry contains the Url link giving access to the publication of the text and the drawing of the patent on Espacenet.