



In our conversation Norbert Muellemann enthusiastically reported on the diverse and extremely well organized International Chopin Conference in Warsaw (25. February – 1. March, 2010). His talk, a philological approach to Chopin's sketches, was incorporated into other thematically related contributions, mainly delivered by Anglo-American speakers. But the main focus was on music analysis, especially following the Schenker-tradition. Dr. Muellemann also remarked that biographical issues continue to be another central area of interest. Polish Chopin researchers are discovering more and more historical recordings of Chopin works, and are attempting a new approach through analytical comparisons. A special highlight was staged at the start of the congress when Christophe Grabowski and John Rink presented the printed catalogue of all first editions of Chopin's works. This was the first public presentation of their book, which in Dr. Muellemann's opinion will "revolutionize the work of music philologists" in this field. He immediately countered the question whether - in view

of the many existing print editions - Urtext editions of Chopin's music are even possible: "Of course an Urtext exists." And he proceeds to explain that what has changed is the presentation and reproduction of the music in comparison to earlier critical editions. Today the editor makes an effort to "open" the music for the musician. In other words, the music is more critically edited and historic errors (that exist to this day), or parallel versions are included more and commented more elaborately.