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*Abstract*

The Archives nationales in Paris contains a hitherto unstudied collection of program notes issued in the mid-nineteenth century at the Théâtre-Italien and the Opéra, ten of which relate to operas by Donizetti. The article offers a first description of publications of this kind, very popular with visitors to French musical theaters, and transcribes and comments on the program notes to *Anna Bolena*, written for a performance of the opera that took place in 1837 at the Théâtre-Italien.