

1086.<sup>1</sup> MOZART TO FRANZ HOFDEMEL,<sup>2</sup> VIENNA

*A / Monsieur / Monsieur de Hofdemel / chez Lui*<sup>3</sup>

dearest friend! –

[Vienna, end of March, 1789]

I allow myself the liberty of asking, without any circumstantially, for a favour, – if you could or would lend me 100 florins<sup>4</sup> until the 20<sup>th</sup> of the coming month,<sup>5</sup> [5] I should be most obliged to you; – on the 20<sup>th</sup> I receive my *quarterly payment*,<sup>6</sup> at which point I will gratefully make good my debt. –

I have also relied too heavily on 100 ducats<sup>7</sup> |: which I am to receive from another country:|; – but since I have so far not received this |: but expect it daily :| I have divested myself of too much money, leaving myself in need of money at this instant, [10] and therefore approach you in confidence because I am entirely convinced of your friendship; –

Now we shall soon be able to address each other by a finer name!<sup>8</sup> – Your cause is very near its goal! –

Mozart mp<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Original last reported auction 1928. Edition Schiedermaier II.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Franz Hofdemel (c. 1755-1791) was a clerk at the Supreme Court [Oberste Justizstelle]. He was about to become a member of Mozart's Masonic lodge (cf. No. 1086/12-13). His wife, Maria Magdalena, née Pokorný, (\* 1766) is said to have been a pupil of Mozart's. Her father was the travelling virtuoso Gotthard Pokorný (1733-1802), who allegedly received a gold watch from Mozart in 1790 as security for a loan, but the watch was never redeemed. On 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1791, Hofdemel attempted to take his wife's life and then, "more out of cowardice than jealousy", committed suicide.

<sup>3</sup> = "To Monsieur de Hofdemel at his home".

<sup>4</sup> BD: Probably for the imminent journey to Berlin.

<sup>5</sup> BD: This is the basis for dating this letter.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Mozart's salary as chamber composer was paid quarterly, probably in arrears.

<sup>7</sup> BD: 450 florins. Possibly the fee from Prague for *Don Giovanni*.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Hofdemel's impending initiation into Freemasonry.

<sup>9</sup> mp = manu propria = in his own hand.