

0327. LEOPOLD MOZART TO BREITKOPF & SON,¹ LEIPZIG

Herrn / Herrn Breitkopf and Son / Famous Book Dealers in / Leipzig

Most noble, especially
and most highly Honourable Sirs,

Salzburg, 11th April, 1777

[5] ²I am sorry that I must burden you once again with these lines. I am about to write a truly blunt letter³ to Herr Grenser⁴ and must now nevertheless wait to see whether perhaps some sensibility for honour is left in this man. If these instruments were not for our court, I would certainly not take so much trouble, and even less would I encumber your most worthy persons with it. [10] His first consignment,⁵ more than 4 years ago, gave no cause at all to expect the present uncivil behaviour of this man. I must accordingly once again urgently beg your worthy persons to allow the matter to be expedited, if there is no objection on your part, by a friend in Dresden, and to take care of the payment when the time comes. I have had only one single communication from [15] Herr Grenser,⁶ to wit, that of the 5th May of last year, where he calculated for me that the instruments, with the costs for cases and packaging, would amount to 48 florins 15 kreuzers. Now, by whatever amount they exceed the sum due for the 25 copies of the violin school,⁷ I will reimburse the same with thanks. In the meantime, I am most obliged for your amicable and manifold efforts and remain, in continuing respect, ready to render any service whatever,

Your Worthiest Sirs'
Most humble servant
Mozart

¹ BD: Later "Breitkopf & Härtel". Founded as "Breitkopf" in 1719. On 1st November, 1795, Christoph Gottlob Breitkopf concluded a contract of partnership with Gottfried Christoph Härtel (1763-1827). This was followed in 1796 by a secret contract of sale in which the entire Breitkopf business was made over to Gottfried Christoph Härtel. The latter was also declared universal heir by Breitkopf shortly before his death in 1800.

² BD: Continuing on the theme of non-delivery of ordered instruments started in Nos. 0322 and 0324.

³ BD: No. 0326a, lost.

⁴ BD: One of the most famous instrument makers in Europe. The founder, Karl Augustin Grenser (I), 1820-1708, was a good wind player himself, came to Dresden in 1739 and set up a workshop in 1744. His flutes were particularly praised for excellent craftsmanship, pure intonation and beautiful sound.

⁵ BD: "a couple of oboes and two bassoons", No. 0263/4 ff.

⁶ BD: No. 0321a, lost.

⁷ BD: 25 copies were delivered to Breitkopf's Nuremberg representative, Schwarzkopf, by Leopold's brother, cf. No. 0324/10-12.