

1837

1459. FRANZ XAVER WOLFGANG MOZART¹ TO ALOYS FUCHS,² VIENNA

EXCERPT:

Lemberg³ / To Herr / Herr Aloys Fuchs / Adjunct Official of the Imperial and Royal Court War Council⁴ / in / Vienna / In the War Building / on the 3rd floor.

Most Estimable Friend!

Lemberg, the 10th March, 837

[. . .] The fact that I could not fulfil your wish regarding the fragments⁵ was certainly very difficult for me, [5] but you cannot possibly take offence at this if you bear in mind that it is the only part of the inheritance from my father that I possess, and which I will therefore never part with, or at least only in return for a significant advantage. If a rich admirer of Mozart can be found sometime, one who pays me well for these things, he can have them, [10] yet you can rest assured that in this case I would retain a copy so that the future owner cannot make use of it as, for example, a product of his own mind [. . .]

¹ BD: Franz Xaver Wolfgang (1791-1844), Mozart's youngest and second surviving son, virtuoso and composer. 1808-1811 private music teacher in Podkarnia, Galicia.

² BD: Aloys (Alois)Fuchs (1799-1833), son of a schoolteacher, studied law and philosophy in Vienna, from 1823 an official in the Court War Council ("Hofkriegsrat") and from 1836 furthermore employed as a singer in the Imperial Court Music ["Kaiserliche Hofkapelle"]. From the age of 21, he assembled one of Europe's most valuable private music collections with numerous autographs. Much of this entered the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin.

³ Today Lviv, Ukraine.

⁴ "Concepts=Adjunkt des k. k. Hofkriegsraths".

⁵ BD: Constanze, who died in 1842, had already bequeathed these fragments to her younger son.