

0263.<sup>1</sup> LEOPOLD MOZART TO J. G. I. BREITKOPF, LEIPZIG

Most noble,  
Most especially honoured Sir!

[Salzburg, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1772]

You will kindly allow me to take refuge with you in a certain matter. I must acquire some wind instruments for our court, [5] and in this I would trust the work of a certain Herr Grenser<sup>2</sup> in Dresden, whom I do not know, other than by the name, which I have seen on the occasional flute or oboe. Since it means much to me and to my honour that I obtain a couple of oboes and two bassoons soon, and with a good sound, because the election of the new Prince<sup>3</sup> will already take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, [10] but I am concerned that the enclosed letter, for lack of the necessary address, might reach Herr Grenser's hands either late or not at all, I therefore beseech you most urgently to pass on this letter to that person as soon as possible, and, if it not inconvenient to you, to accompany it with a letter of recommendation from yourself, [15] letting me, however, pay the postage for the letter.

We arrived back from Milan on the 15<sup>th</sup> December, and since my son has won much fame once again by composing the theatrical *serenade*,<sup>4</sup> he has been called upon once again to write the first *opera*<sup>5</sup> for *Carnival* in the coming year, and immediately afterwards to write the second *opera*<sup>6</sup> in the same *Carnival* season [20] for the *San Benedetto* theatre in Venice. We will therefore stay in Salzburg until the end of this *September*, then leave for Italy again, for what is indeed the third time.

Should you wish to bring anything by my son to the stage of publication,<sup>7</sup> the best time would be before then. You need only say what would be most suitable for you, [25] be it *keyboard pieces*, or *trios*<sup>8</sup> with 2 *violins* and one *violoncello*, or *quartets*, that is, with 2 *violins*, one *viola* and one *violoncello*, or *symphonies* with 2 *violins*, *viola*, 2 *horns*, 2 *oboes* or transverse flutes and *bass*. In short, it can be whatever kind of *composition* seems most advantageous to you. He will write anything if you only inform him soon. [30] In the meantime, my wife safely received, in my absence, the 78 florins 30 kreuzers.<sup>9</sup> I am otherwise, with particular respect,

Noble Sir,

Your most obedient servant,  
Leopold Mozart mp.

<sup>1</sup> BD: Lost; seen at a Stargardt/Karl & Faber auction in 1951. Copy c. 1850.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> "eines neuen Fürsten". BD: The old Prince-Archbishop Schrattenbach had just died, cf. No. 0261. On the 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1772, Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812) was elected. Studied in Vienna, canon in Salzburg 1747, then to the Collegium Germanicum in Rome. Priest in Statz, Austria, Canon in Passau and provost of Saint Moritz in Augsburg. 1761 Prince-Bishop of Gurk. Formal processional entry to Salzburg on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1772. Wolfgang's 'Serenata Dramatica' *Il sogno di Scipione* KV 126 was performed in his honour in the Residence at the beginning of May (cf. No. 1212/326-327). He was probably the obligatory witness when Mozart was granted membership of the Order of the Golden Spur in Rome on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 1770 (cf. No. 0197/14).

<sup>4</sup> BD: *Ascanio in Alba* KV 111. Cf. No. 0239/15.

<sup>5</sup> BD: *Lucio Silla* KV 135. The contract was finalised on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1771. Cf. No. 0236/50.

<sup>6</sup> BD: The contract from Mozart to write an opera for the Teatro San Benedetto in Venice had already been finalised on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1771. No reason is known why the opera was never composed. Cf. No. 0245/27.

<sup>7</sup> BD: A similar request is made in No. 0320/6 ff.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Such trios are listed in No. 0144/39.

<sup>9</sup> BD: Presumably from sales of Leopold's violin school. BD VII: Cf. No. 0243/45 ff.

[35] Salzb. 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1772.

Have you had no news for a long time now from our friend *Grimm*?<sup>10</sup> – Have some of the portraits<sup>11</sup> and sonatas<sup>12</sup> been sold? –

---

<sup>10</sup> BD: Friedrich Melchior von Grimm (1723-1807), 1748 private secretary to the Saxon Graf Friese, with whom he moved to Paris, where he was in contact with the Encyclopaedists. Subsequently employed by the Crown Prince of Saxony-Gotha as personal reader; he then entered the service of the Duke of Orleans; represented the Imperial city of Frankfurt in Paris; ambassador to Saxony-Gotha; in 1795 he returned to the court in Saxony-Gotha with the title of minister of the Russian court. Various publications, one of which, in 1763, mentioned the Mozart children. He initially supported them, but his relationship with Mozart broke down in 1778 during the latter's stay in Paris.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Probably the Paris engraving of Leopold and both children by Delafosse, cf. Deutsch Bild no. 5.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Probably Op. I (KV 6, 7), II (KV 8, 9), III (KV 10-15) and IV (KV 26-31).