

0320. LEOPOLD MOZART TO J. G. I. BREITKOPF,¹ LEIPZIG;² BREITKOPF'S DRAFT REPLY

Herr / Herr Breitkopf famous / Bookseller in / Leipzig /

[Salzburg, 6th October, 1775]

Most noble, most particularly honoured Sir!

You will no doubt have received the 50 copies of my violin school, [5] the ones which have been correctly paid for via Herr Schwarzkopf³ with 75 florins. Since I have for some time now been resolved to have some of my son's works printed,⁴ I would request you to inform me as soon as possible if you wish to decide to publish something, be it *symphonies*, *quartets*, *trios*, *sonatas* for violin and *violoncello*, that is, so-called *violin solo* [10] or *sonatas* for the *clavier*. As far as the latter are concerned, the question is whether you might like to print *clavier sonatas* in the same manner as those of Herr Philipp Carl Emanuel Bach with ornamented repeats?⁵ – – They are printed in Berlin by Herr George Ludwig Winter and this kind of *sonata* is very popular. I must once again ask you, however, to let me know your decision soon, [15] and to include general information about the way in which you usually take over the publishing so that we do not need to waste time with extensive correspondence on such details and so that I can, if need be, turn elsewhere. If you would be so good as to enclose a *list* of all the works of Herr Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach published by yourself,⁶ N.B. with the price indicated, [20] it would be most satisfactory for me. I am otherwise with especial esteem,

Noble Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Leopold Mozart

[25] Salzburg, 6th Oct., 1775

Have you heard anything from our friend Herr Grimm⁷ in Paris? I have received no letters

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: In Breitkopf's sketched reply on the original (BD V, p. 359), Breitkopf confirms receipt and payment of the copies of the violin school via Schwarzkopf. The difficult position of music publishers a moment, with booksellers taking over more of the sales of music, prevents him from pursuing the question of Leopold's son's music. He has heard nothing from Herr Grimm since his last visit; the bill for the sonatas and the portrait of Leopold's son were sent to Leopold on that occasion.

³ BD: The Nuremberg representative of the publisher Breitkopf.

⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0263/23 ff., a similar offer made to Breitkopf.

⁵ BD: Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714-1788) published *Sechs Sonaten für Clavier mit veränderten Reprisen*, dedicated to Princess Amalie of Prussia (cf. No. 0065/145), in 1760.

⁶ BD: In 1775, the only works by C.P.E. Bach published by Breitkopf were *Sechs leichte Clavier-Sonaten* (1766).

⁷ 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.

from him for more than a year now. Have the children's *sonatas* by my son⁸ and the *portraits*⁹ been sold? – –

BREITKOPF'S DRAFT REPLY OF THE 25TH NOVEMBER:

Rp. of the 25th Nov.

I have received the violin schools via Herr Schwarzkopf, who charged us for the money paid for them; thank you for the consignment. In view of the present state of the music business, which seems to be passing entirely into the hands of the booksellers, I must at the moment turn down any publications. If there is any change in this, I will be pleased to partake in the works offered by your esteemed son.

I have heard nothing from Herr Grimm since the last time he was here.

I have credited the sonatas and *portraits* of your esteemed son to your account.

1775 685
– 6 8br Salzburg
– 16 Mozardt
– 25.

15. *Son.*

1. *Trio* 2.

12. *Conc.*

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

⁹ BD: Probably the Paris engraving of Leopold and both children by Delafosse, cf. Deutsch Bild no. 5.