

0322. LEOPOLD MOZART TO BREITKOPF & SOHN,¹ LEIPZIG²

Herr / Herr Breitkopf and / Son famous Booksellers / in / Leipzig

[Salzburg, 16th August, 1776]

Most noble, most especially honoured Sirs!

About 4 years ago you were so good as to not only arrange for me [5] the prompt delivery of the requested instruments from Herr *Grenser*,³ wind instrument maker in Dresden and to stand surety on my behalf as I asked you to, but even to take care of the actual payment. I am in the same situation, but this time it concerns the small matter of what may amount to 48 florins 15 kreuzers, since it is only one delivery, that of a pair of oboes and a pair of cor anglais. [10] Herr Grenser will have prepared it already, as I hope from his written promise dated 5 May.⁴ Now I have complications with the payment, as I see no other way open to me than a letter of exchange, although it is indeed such a small amount. But if you happen to require some violin schools for this amount, I could hand these to Herr Breitkopf at the next autumn market [15] and in this way, by your kindness, pay Herr Grenser more exactly and more quickly.

If this is not the case, I must ask you, in friendship and most pressingly, to most kindly arrange the shipping of these instruments, since it is for our court, which is expecting a visit from many persons of rank from Vienna in the middle of the coming September. [20] Among the names certain to come are the father of our Prince,⁵ the esteemed Imperial Vice-Chancellor Prince *Colloredo*,⁶ the Russian Ambassador Prince Gallizin,⁷ Count von Rosenberg,⁸ Count Schönborn,⁹ who only recently married the sister of our Prince. Above all, until I receive an answer from you, and in order not to hold up the shipping of the instruments, [25] I must ask you to stand surety on the payment to Herr Grenser for me. Pardon the liberty with which I place my confidence in you. I offer myself for all imaginable favours and services in return and am, with the greatest esteem,

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. 364), Breitkopf says that they had written to Grenser twice, but had received no answer; this is why the reply is so late. He does not know if Leopold has the instruments or not. He requests 25 more copies of Leopold’s violin school.

³ 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.

⁴ BD: No. 0321a, lost; it obviously contained details of an offer. In No. 0327/15, Leopold goes into more detail of the contents of No. 0321a.

⁵ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg since 1772. Employer of Leopold and Wolfgang.

⁶ “der Herr ReichsVizekanzler Fürst Colloredo”. BD: Rudolph Joseph, Count [Graf] and from 1764 Prince [Fürst] Colloredo-Mels und Wallsee (1706-1788), member of an ancient noble family with roots going back to 1302. One of his sons, Hieronymus (just mentioned), became Archbishop of Salzburg and employer of Leopold and Wolfgang (cf. No. 0263/9).

⁷ “Prinz Gallizin”. BD: Dmitriy Michaylovitch, Prince Golicyn, (1720-1794).

⁸ “Graf v Rosenberg”. BD: Franz Xaver Wolf, Graf (later Prince [Fürst]) Orsini-Rosenberg (1723-1796), administrator in Vienna, later “General Director of Spectacles” in Vienna.

⁹ “Graf Schönborn”. BD: Eugen Franz Erwein, Count [Graf] Schönborn (1727-1801); he married Maria Theresia, Princess [Prinzessin] Colloredo (* 1744), sister of Archbishop Colloredo of Salzburg, in 1776. Archbishop Colloredo travelled to Vienna for the wedding in June, 1776, returning on 4th July.

Noble Sirs,
Your most obedient servant,
Leopold Mozart

[30]

BREITKOPF'S DRAFT REPLY OF THE 3RD DECEMBER:

to Bl. a M.
– Hab. a T.
– Magd. a R.
– Salzb. a. M.

Composer
Father of Mozart

Rp. of 3rd Dec. We inform you that we have written twice to Grenser in Dresden because of the instruments ordered from them, but never received an answer; this is why our answer comes so late, and we do not know whether you now have the instruments or not. If Herr Schwarzkopf manages to come to Salzburg from Nuremberg before Easter, we ask you to give him 25 copies of your violin school to be charged to us.

1776 726
– Aug. Salzburg
R of 3 Dec Mozart.