

0324. LEOPOLD MOZART TO BREITKOPF & SOHN,¹ LEIPZIG

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

Most Noble,

Most Honoured Sirs!

Salzburg, 13th *December*,
1776

[5] Never was I in such embarrassment as with this consignment of instruments,² since I had promised the court that I would receive them soon. I have written to Herr Grenser³ again, under today's *date*, and am attempting to push the delivery forward. Since the 5th May I have received one single letter⁴ from him, where he informed me that the amount would be 48 florins 15 kreuzers. I ask you most urgently [10] either to take care of the payment or to stand surety for the same. The 25 copies of the violin school requested will be sent straight to Herr Schwarzkopf⁵ in Nuremberg for you by my brother⁶ in Augsburg. Please perform this act of friendship for me. I offer myself for all imaginable services in return and am with the greatest esteem,

[20]

Noble Sirs,

Your most obedient servant,

Leopold 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: Cf. Nos. 0263/3 ff.; 0322/4 ff.

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.

⁵ BD: The Nuremberg representative of the publisher Breitkopf, cf. No. 0163/29.

⁶ BD: Franz Alois Mozart (1727-1791), bookbinder in Augsburg; cf. No. 0006/7.