

0495.¹ LEOPOLD MOZART TO J. G. I. BREITKOPF,² LEIPZIG

Herr Johann Gottlob Immanuel / Breitkopf / in / Leipzig

Most Noble, especially highly Honourable Sir!

Salzb., 4th Octob., 1778

Your kind missive³ of the 21st July reached me correctly in good time, whereas that of the 4th July⁴ did not come into my hands until yesterday via Schwarzkopf⁵ the book dealer. [5] I very much regret having to trouble you so often concerning that disorderly man, Herr Grenser.⁶ I presume that you have paid him the 20 florins 8 kreuzers⁷ and have a receipt for this. Since, furthermore, the 25 copies of the violin school @ 1 florin 30 kreuzers amount to 37 florins 30 kreuzers, I asked Herr Schwarzkopf to pay me only 17 florins 21 kreuzers,⁸ [10] with which everything, including the 20 florins 8 kreuzers for Grenser, is settled. If you could make use of a quantity of my violin schools |: as we have otherwise done for 1 florin 30 kreuzers – or on *commission* for 1 florins 45 kreuzers,⁹ I at your command; and might you not perhaps be inclined sometime to publish something by my son by means of your music presses? – – it would depend only on your expert opinion [15] as to what you think he should write that could run to the most copies. In the main the composer must strive for ease of execution so that it turns out useful to all music lovers and he is sure of sales, be it pieces for *keyboard*, or *trios* or *quartets* etc. for strings or winds instruments etc.

[20] Finally, I must give you the sad news that my wife, the best of all women and true mother of the children, passed into eternity in Paris on 3 *Julii* and that I expect my son back in Salzburg, since he, for my sake, is to enter service here again under acceptable conditions as concert-master.

[25] If you find that I am in a position to render agreeable services to you, I am at your command, and rest assured that I will make every effort so as to be able to show you in effective deeds that I am, with the greatest respect,

Your Most Noble Sir's
most devoted servant

[30] Leopold Mozart

¹ BD: The next letter should be No. 0499, after which comes No. 0496.

² BD: Of the firm later called "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.

³ BD: No. 0467a, lost.

⁴ BD: No. 0460a, lost.

⁵ BD: The Nuremberg representative of the firm Breitkopf; he had come to Salzburg for the autumn fair.

⁶ BD: The letter concerns payment of remaining sum due on instruments delivered to the court in Salzburg by the Dresden instrument maker Grenser (cf. Nos. 0322; 0324; 0437; 0461). Leopold offered 25 copies of his violin method in payment. 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. Cf. No. 0263/5, 11.

⁷ BD: The sum should be 20 fl. 8½ kr. (cf. No. 0461/30).

⁸ BD: Approximately difference between "37 fl. 30 kr." and "20 fl. 8 kr."

⁹ BD: Leopold offered a better price for outright purchase than sale on commission.