

1787

1016. MOZART TO AN UNKNOWN RECIPIENT, VIENNA¹

[Vienna, after 16th May, 1787]²

I beg your forgiveness for recently taking the liberty of removing the Haydn *quartets*³ – but, boor that I am, I always think I am an exception. – I would most pressingly ask you to lend me, until tomorrow, [5] my 6 quartets⁴ – the *quintet* in G minor and the new one in C minor. – I will gratefully return everything to its place ~~the day after~~⁵ tomorrow. – Good night.

Mozart

¹ BD: Schiedermaier doubted the authenticity of this letter. Its content might suggest it could have been addressed to a copyist, although the great politeness of the phrasing speaks against this; a possible recipient was van Swieten. The quintets mentioned are presumably KV 516 and KV 406.

² BD: KV 516 is entered in Mozarts “Verzeichnüss” under “16th May, 1787”. KV 406 does not appear in the “Verzeichnüss”, probably because it is a re-working of an older work [the Serenade KV 388 (384a)?].

³ BD: On the basis of the dating suggested, the reference here could be to Haydn’s string quartets op. 50.

⁴ BD: Possibly the quartets dedicated to Joseph Hadyn: KV 387, 421 (417b), 458, 428 (421b), 464 and 465.

⁵ Cf. BD VI, p. 325.