

1087. MOZART'S PROMISSORY NOTE FOR FRANZ HOFDEMEL,<sup>1</sup> VIENNA

*A / Monsieur / Monsieur de Hofdēml / Chez Lui*<sup>2</sup>

Vienna, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1789

100 florins Vienna *Courant in coin*.

4 months after the *date*<sup>3</sup> hereof I the undersigned will pay the *sum* of 100 fl., in words [5] One Hundred guldens<sup>4</sup> to Herr von Hofdeml or as he *orders*; I have received the *currency* in coin; I will fulfil correct payment at the due time, and declare myself subject to an Imperial and Royal Lower Austrian Mercantile and Contractual Court.<sup>5</sup>

Valid only for my person.

Wolfgang Amadè Mozart mp<sup>6</sup>

Music Director in Actual Imperial and Royal Service.<sup>7</sup>

IN HOFDEMEL'S HAND:<sup>8</sup>

For me

to the *order* of Herr

Mathias Anzenberger with

my continuing *obligo*: the value received in coin. Vienna, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1789.

Franz Hofdeml

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Franz Hofdemel (c. 1755-1791) was a clerk at the High Court [Oberste Justizstelle]. He was about to become a member of Mozart's Masonic lodge (cf. No. 1086/12-13). His wife, Maria Magdalena, née Pokorný, (\* 1766) is said to have been a pupil of Mozart's. Her father was the travelling virtuoso Gotthard Pokorný (1733-1802), who allegedly received a gold watch from Mozart in 1790 as security for a loan, but the watch was never redeemed. On 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1791, Hofdemel attempted to take his wife's life and then, "more out of cowardice than jealousy", committed suicide.

<sup>2</sup> = "To Monsieur de Hofdemel at his home".

<sup>3</sup> BD: Hofdemel made the debt over to Matthias Anzenberger, proprietor of a fashion shop, on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1789. It is not clear whether the debt to a "*galanterie* merchant" mentioned in No. 1123/17 (months later!) refers to this, nor whether Mozart settled the debt on time. His financial situation in August was very precarious.

<sup>4</sup> 1 gulden effectively = 1 florin.

<sup>5</sup> "k: k: N: Oe: Merkantil und WechselGericht".

<sup>6</sup> mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

<sup>7</sup> "kapellmeister in wirklichen k: k: Diensten".

<sup>8</sup> BD: Debt made over to Matthias Anzenberger.