

1137. MOZART'S PROMISSORY NOTE<sup>1</sup>

Promissory Note.

[Vienna, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1790]

I, the undersigned, Wolfg. A. *Mozart*, court composer in this place,<sup>2</sup> do hereby certify and attest for myself, my heirs and descendants, publicly and in the most correct legal form, that the worthy Herr Heinrich Lackenbacher, [5] privileged merchant of the town, has lent and paid me without deduction, at my request and according to my present requirement, a *capital* of 1000 florins, in words one thousand guldens<sup>3</sup> in Conventional coins, viz. in Imperial Austrian Twenty Kreuzer Pieces in Silver according to the Twenty Gulden Measure counting 3 Pieces to One Cologne Mark Silver. [10] I therefore confirm hereby not only the correct receipt of this loan, but also oblige myself, my heirs and descendants to repay this capital to the esteemed Lender named above, to his heirs or cessionaries, after the passage of two years from the present date,<sup>4</sup> unless previously cancelled, in the same kind of coins mentioned above and without exception of any kind, [15] but in the meantime to pay interest in the same currency at the rate of 5 percent, delivering this so punctually here in Vienna that I, in the event of acting to the contrary, lose the repayment period allowed for the Capital and the esteemed Lender can immediately demand the return of the Capital along with the entire interest and costs.

[20] As security for both the Capital and the Interest, I pledge to the esteemed Lender all my movable goods.

This is certified by the signatures of myself and the requested worthy witnesses in their own hands. Enacted in Vienna on 1<sup>st</sup> *Octobris* 1790.<sup>5</sup>

Mathias Brünner  
[25] as witness

W. A. Mozart

Anton Heindl  
Witness

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<sup>1</sup> BD: In an unknown hand with Mozart's signature.

<sup>2</sup> "Hofkompositeur".

<sup>3</sup> Guldens and florins can be regarded as effectively equivalent. "Kreuzer": 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

<sup>4</sup> BD: After two years, i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1792. But Lackenbacher does not appear among the creditors to his estate. It must be assumed that Mozart's had "worked" the debts away by delivering compositions to Hoffmeister (cf. Nos. 1135/32; 1136/14; 1139/17).

<sup>5</sup> BD: At this date, Mozart was still in Frankfurt. He presumably signed later. He also appears to have been counting on a loan of 2000 florins (cf. No. 1139/12-15!).