

1166.<sup>1</sup> MOZART TO MICHAEL PUCHBERG,<sup>2</sup> VIENNA

Dearest, most valued friend!

[Vienna,] 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1791.

Most venerable Br.<sup>3</sup>

I have not had the pleasure of speaking to you in person today regarding business; – I would ask a favour – [5] My wife writes to me saying she notices that they would like |: although they have no *express claim* to it |: to see a little money for the *accommodation* as well as for meals and bathing, and she is therefore asking me to send it to her. Thinking that I would settle the accounts at the end, on her departure, I now find myself in great embarrassment in this matter. I do not wish to expose my poor wife to unpleasant things – and I must not be seen broke at the moment. If you, most valued friend, can give me a little support so that I can send it out to her once, I will be most deeply obliged to you. – It is only a matter of some days until you receive 2000 florins in my name<sup>4</sup> – from which you can then draw your reimbursement at once. [15]

Eternally, sir, your

From home the 25<sup>th</sup> June. 791.

Mozart

IN MICHAEL PUCHBERG'S HAND:

(*eod: d.*<sup>5</sup> 25 fl. sent)

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Original discovered 1971. Edition based on copy Bspk. Edition Jahn <sup>1</sup>/III. BD VIII, p. 136: The letter bears an attestation of authenticity signed by Mozart's widow, now Constanze Nissen, in 1822.

<sup>2</sup> BD: Johann Michael Puchberg (1741-1822), 1768-1777 in charge of a factory and wholesale business for finished and semi-finished silk layers, velvet, ribbons, cloth and gloves. He resumed this activity in 1785 in association with his brother. The landlord of the premises on the Hoher Markt in Vienna was Franz, Count [Graf] Walsegg-Stuppach, who commissioned the *Requiem* from Mozart in 1791. Member of various Masonic lodges from 1773 onwards. It was probably in Masonic circles that he met Mozart. He was also in contact with Joseph Haydn, who wrote to him in January, 1792, in connection with Mozart's death. He represented Constanze for a time regarding Mozart's estate. Mozart dedicated to him the string trio divertimento in E<sup>b</sup> KV 563 (cf. No. 1094/23; No. 1121/11) and perhaps also the piano trio in E KV 542 (cf. notes on No. 1077/50 and No. 1083/18). Puchberg died in poverty in 1822.

<sup>3</sup> Masonic greeting (Brother [in the Order]).

<sup>4</sup> BD: It is not clear from where Mozart was expecting this money.

<sup>5</sup> *eodem die* = on the same day.