

1226.¹ CONSTANZE MOZART² TO BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,³ LEIPZIG

Vienne / a Monsieur / Monsieur Breitkopf & : / à / Leipzig.

[Vienna, 1st September, 1798]

On 26th May I did in fact send you a detailed answer to your communication to me dated 15th May, 798, [5] but you appear not to have received this letter of mine, which shocks me greatly. I therefore place at your service my reply on how bemused I was to have read in a public announcement that your intention was to publish all the works of my late husband as engravings, since I still own a number of them which have never been in anyone else's hands. I should in fact be wary of entering any relations with you, gentlemen, [10] since I still have fresh recollections of how little and how badly you kept your word regarding that certain Bandl-Terzett.⁴ But since, on the other hand, your keen and enterprising project for my unforgettable husband's works is not displeasing to me, I shall be happy to cooperate on it on the condition that you would be so good as to send me an acceptable plan⁵ for this, accompanied by a guarantee⁶ and a profit [15] which are completely in keeping with my justified distrust and the value of these works.

I will send you a thematic catalogue of all known and unknown works of Mozart as soon as I have finally received from you precise accounts, since you have incorporated the music business of Schmiedt & Rau into your own,⁷ [20] as well as a correct account of my demand and the payment of the same, including the Bandl-Terzett as agreed. But I ask you to present the points in the invoice so clearly that I can easily grasp it, since I do not understand the commercial symbols and currencies; this is also the reason why I ask you to calculate everything in Viennese currency,⁸ [25] and not to forget to show exactly how many copies of the concerto you still have. In anticipation of a speedy reply and account I remain with the greatest respect

Your
Most obedient Mozart
Widow

[30] Vienna, on the 1st 7br,⁹ 798

My address is:

In the Judengässel N:^o 535
on the 2nd floor.

¹ BD: Publisher's remarks on the original: "1798 / erh / 10 Novbr Vienna / Mozart" as well as sender's information.

² BD: Handwriting unknown.

³ BD: The firm "Breitkopf" was founded in 1719. It later became Breitkopf & Härtel: 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. Christopher Gottlob Breitkopf (1750-1800). He composed and was an outstanding player of the glass harmonica. His father, Johann Gottlob Immanuel Breitkopf (1719-1794), made the acquaintance of Mozart, as well as of Haydn and Gluck, on a visit to Vienna in 1786. Constanze probably met Ch. G. Breitkopf and his wife during her stay in Leipzig (November, 1795). Leopold Mozart's correspondence with J. G. I. Breitkopf started in the year 1772 (cf. No. 0263). He repeatedly tried to interest the publisher in his son's music, but apparently without success during Mozart's lifetime.

⁴ BD: Cf. No. 1216/3 ff.

⁵ BD: The plan can be seen in the B & H catalogue printed in 1800. The *Oeuvres complètes* were to appear in three sections: I: keyboard works; II: scores of larger works such as operas, cantatas, church music; III: music in parts a number of instruments, such as symphonies, concertos, quintets, quartets etc.

⁶ BD: Cf. No. 1224/27.

⁷ BD: The Leipzig publishing house Schmid & Rauh was incorporated into B & H at the beginning of 1798.

⁸ BD: "Wienerfuss".

⁹ "7" = "septem", thus "September".