

1232. CONSTANZE MOZART¹ TO BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL,² LEIPZIG

Most highly honoured sirs,

[Vienna, 29th December, 1798]

My most obedient thanks for your pleasing letter of the 22nd *December*, and I make haste to answer as much of it as I can today, having received it an hour ago, because you declare it an obligation and condition for me [5] that you receive the plates³ immediately.

Along with this I have the honour of sending you my letter to Herr von Thonus,⁴ and an instruction for him, according to which all the plates will certainly follow immediately.

You will furthermore find in this consignment the plate⁵ for the portrait of my late husband.

[10] I would consider it a renewed favour if you would be so kind as to see to it that these two items are paid for soon via Herr Wapler⁶ or someone else here, and I promise to give a satisfactory answer as promptly as possible to the other part of your letter. The plate for the portrait cost me 10 ducats,⁷ but in my last letter I made it over to you for six ducats.⁸ [15]

I look forward to the 2nd delivery, send you the most obliged thanks in advance, and am, with the choicest compliments,

most honoured sirs,
your most obedient servant,
Constance Mozart

[20] Vienna, 29th *Dec.*, 1798.

¹ BD: Nissen's handwriting, Constanze's signature. Nissen: cf. note No. 1224.

² BD: Founded as "Breitkopf" in 1719. 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.

³ BD: The engraved plates for the concerto KV 503 (cf. No. 1230/19-20).

⁴ BD: Cf. No. 1231b. J.P. von Thonus, publisher in Leipzig, found the copper plates for the piano concert in C KV 503 in 1798.

⁵ BD: Cf. Nos. 1228/117; 1231/46.

⁶ BD: Publisher in Vienna. Freemason. Publications included a book on mineralogy and the text of Handel's *Messiah*. Correspondent for Breitkopf & Härtel.

⁷ BD: 10 ducats = 45 florins.

⁸ BD: 6 ducats = 27 florins.